

SCHOOL YEAR PLANNING

A GUIDE TO ADDRESS THE CHALLENGES OF COVID-19



REVISED:
AUGUST 3, 2020

2020-2021

SHASTA COUNTY SCHOOLS & DISTRICTS



SHASTA COUNTY LOCAL CONTEXT

The Shasta County Office of Education, local charter schools and school districts, along with Shasta County Public Health, are fully committed to working together to prepare for the reopening of schools. All public, site-based schools in Shasta County share this common set of best practices to guide each school's return to instruction on school sites as safely and effectively as possible, with as much normalcy as possible.

Back to School immunizations are even more important this year. This will help reduce other preventable diseases, like the flu. The flu has similar symptoms to COVID-19 and could cause confusion if a student or employee becomes sick with those symptoms. As soon as the flu shot is available, you are encouraged to get the shot for yourself and your children.

The principles for preventing COVID-19 addressed in this overview include student cohorting, physical distancing, limiting the mixing of students, environmental cleaning, and keeping both students and staff who are

sick at home.

Each charter school and school district will need to apply the California Department of Public Health Guidance but because each of our schools is unique in its student size, facilities, staff, and resources, how exactly that might look on each campus will be different.

Special thanks to Shasta County Public Health Officer Dr. Karen Ramstrom and Analyst Janessa Hartmann from Shasta County Public Health for all their assistance and support as we consider how to prevent COVID-19 transmission as we return to schools in Shasta County.

With the release of the updated California Department of Public Health Guidance on July 17, 2020, Shasta County schools and districts are completing their plans for what a return to school in mid-August might look like. Please connect with your local school district or charter school for the specifics of the plans being developed. School districts and charter schools are working to have plans finalized by the end of July.

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COVID-19

HOW IS COVID-19 SPREAD?

COVID-19 is spread mainly from person-to-person, via air droplets that contain the virus. For example; when a person sneezes, coughs, or talks, the virus is exhaled by the infected person and then inhaled by a nearby person. Some people do not show any signs or symptoms of being ill but can still spread the virus. The virus can also spread when a person touches objects and surfaces that have the virus on it and then touches their eyes, nose, or mouth.

HOW CAN WE PREVENT TRANSMISSION?

This virus can spread easily from person-to-person so taking necessary precautions is an important way to keep you, your family, friends, and community safe. The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus. Key prevention practices also include:

- Physical distancing to the maximum extent possible.
- Washing hands with soap and water, frequently, for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available then use hand sanitizer (at least 60% alcohol).
- Using a cloth face cover for your nose and mouth, unless under the age of 2 or anyone who has trouble breathing.
- Covering your coughs and sneezes. If you use a tissue, throw it away immediately and wash your hands.
- Cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces.
- Monitoring you and your family's health by taking temperatures and watching for signs and symptoms of COVID-19.

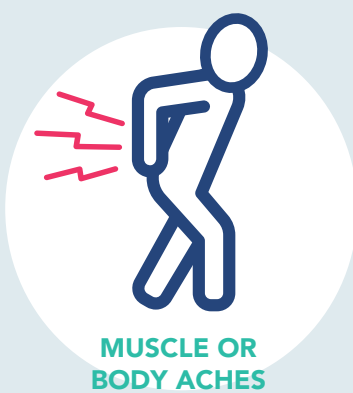
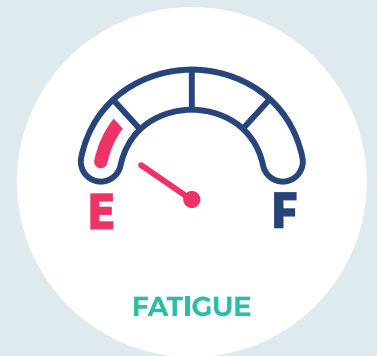
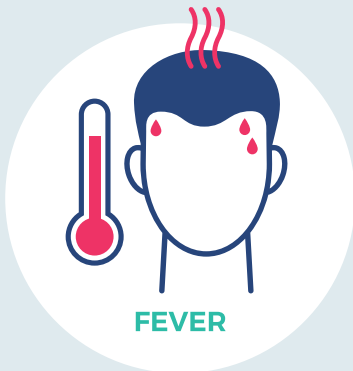
CORONAVIRUS

SYMPTOMS

People with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported – ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness.



SYMPTOMS MAY APPEAR 2-14 DAYS AFTER EXPOSURE TO THE VIRUS.
PEOPLE WITH THESE SYMPTOMS MAY HAVE COVID-19:



BEFORE COMING TO SCHOOL



SCREENING AT HOME

Families are encouraged to take temperatures daily before sending students to school. Anyone with a fever of 100.4° or higher should stay home.

Students should be screened for COVID-19 symptoms prior to coming to school. Those experiencing symptoms should not attend school.

Students should wash their hands before entering buses or schools.

Please contact the school if someone in your home or a close contact has been diagnosed with COVID-19. Depending on the situation, your child will likely need to stay home for 14 days.

School staff will also be asked to screen before leaving for school and to stay home if they have symptoms.

ARRIVING AT AND PICKING UP FROM SCHOOL

TRANSPORTATION

Since physical distancing cannot easily be maintained on a school bus, cloth face coverings will be required for students and the driver. A minimum of 6 feet of space will be provided between the driver and student passengers.

Buses will be cleaned and disinfected after each bus route is completed, both morning and afternoon.

Windows on school buses will be kept open as much as possible to increase air flow.

MINIMIZING CONTACT

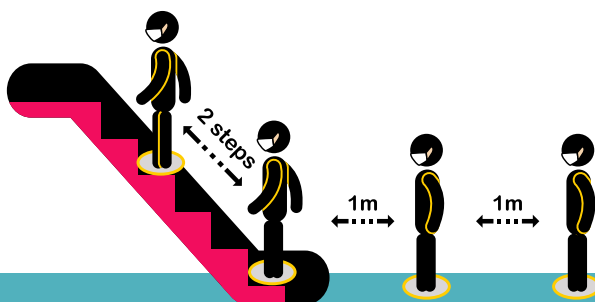
In order to minimize contact, schools may:

Have new routes for entry and for exit (one-way flow)

Stagger arrival and drop off times and locations.

WELLNESS CHECKS

School staff are asked to conduct visual wellness checks of all students upon arrival. Staff may take students' temperatures with a no-touch thermometer.



PRECAUTIONS THROUGHOUT THE DAY

CLEANING/DISINFECTING GUIDELINES

Schools will follow Centers for Disease Control & Prevention cleaning and disinfecting guidelines.

The guidelines include requirements for cleaning high touch points (door handles, light switches, bathroom surfaces, etc.) at the school throughout the school day.

As much as possible, teachers will avoid having students share electronic devices, books, toys, and learning aids. When sharing does occur, objects will be cleaned and disinfected between uses.

HANDWASHING ROUTINE

Routines will be established with teachers and students to regularly wash their hands and additional handwashing stations may be available.

VENTILATION

Windows and doors will be open as much as possible to provide fresh air.

SCHOOL MEALS

Food service may provide meals to be eaten in classrooms, outside, multi-purpose room, or in a well-ventilated area that provides for social distancing. Where cafeterias or group dining rooms must be used, students will be kept together in their cohort groups, with physical distancing and schools will consider assigned seating.

Food service workers should be wearing gloves and face coverings.

Use of refillable water bottles is encouraged.

SIGNS OF ILLNESS WHILE AT SCHOOL

Any students or staff exhibiting symptoms should be required to immediately wear a face covering and wait in a supervised isolation area until they can be transported home or to a health care facility.

To return to school, the student/staff will need to:

- Wait at least 10 days after symptoms start and at least 24 hours fever free (without fever-reducing medication) and other symptoms have improved OR
- See their healthcare provider. If the individual receives a negative COVID-19 result or receives a medical note by the physician that provides an alternative explanation for symptoms, then they can return to school after 24 hours fever free (and no fever reducing medications) and improvement in other symptoms

SERVICE PROVIDERS AND PROGRAM PERSONNEL

A variety of people are on a school campus to provide services and support to students and their families. Those providers will continue to provide services, but will need to sign in at the school office each day. These individuals will not come on campus if they are ill, have any symptoms of COVID-19, or a temperature of 100.4° when arriving at the school.



PRECAUTIONS THROUGHOUT THE DAY

PHYSICAL DISTANCING MEASURES

Classrooms should maximize space between student seating.

Teacher desks should be at least 6 feet away from student desks.

Use of shared objects will be limited.

School schedules will vary from school to school due to the size of facilities, the impact of student enrollment on available space, and staffing considerations. Some schools may be able to accommodate all students while others will need rotating schedules with distance learning.

Within the K-8 setting, students will stay with the same group of students as much as possible. Teachers may rotate as needed, but the goal would be to keep the same group of students together.

Modified flow of traffic within the school may occur in order to create a pathway in and out of buildings in order to minimize the mixing of students. Guidelines will be created on the floor that students can follow to enable physical distancing while passing.

Schools can use non-classroom space for instruction, including regular use of outdoor space, as weather permits.

Physical barriers, such as plexiglass, may be in place in the office, cafeteria and other areas where physical distancing is not possible.

FACE COVERINGS

Cloth face coverings must be worn by students in grade 3-12 and all adults on campus, unless school medical records exempts a student from wearing a face covering. If a student's health has

changed, school medical records will need to be updated with a doctor's note. Face covering exemptions include:

- Persons with a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability that prevents wearing a face covering. This includes persons with a medical condition for whom wearing a face covering could obstruct breathing.
- Persons who are hearing impaired, or communicating with a person who is hearing impaired, where the ability to see the mouth is essential for communication.

Exceptions to the wearing of face masks include when eating and outdoors when 6 feet of physical distancing is possible.

Two year olds through 2nd grade students are strongly encouraged to wear face coverings, but not required.

Face coverings will be removed for meals, snacks, naptime, or outdoor recreation. When a cloth face covering is temporarily removed, it will be placed in a clean paper bag (marked with the student's name and date) until it needs to be put on again.

PROPER USE OF FACE COVERINGS:

Wash your hands before putting on your face covering.

Put it over your nose and mouth and secure it under your chin.

Try to fit it snugly against the sides of your face. Make sure you can breathe easily.

CLEANING OF FACE COVERINGS:

Cloth face coverings should be washed after each use, either using warm water with your laundry or by hand using 4 teaspoons household bleach per quart of room temperature water.

STOP THE SPREAD OF GERMS

Help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases like COVID-19.



WASH

Wash your hands with soap and water often, and for at least 20 seconds.



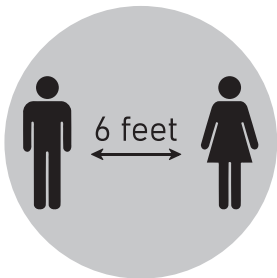
COVER

Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash and wash your hands.



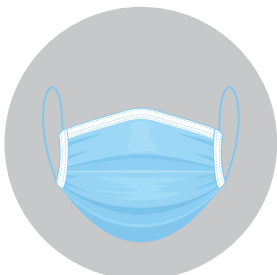
DO NOT TOUCH

Do not touch your eyes, nose, or mouth.



SOCIAL DISTANCE

Stay at least 6 feet (about 2 arm's length) from other people.



WEAR FACE COVERINGS

Face coverings are required for students in grades 3 through 12. In younger grades, face coverings are strongly encouraged. Face coverings are required for those who ride the bus.

SPORTS/PHYSICAL EDUCATION

PRACTICES CAN BE HELD WITH THE GUIDANCE ISSUED

- Activities will be held in a large, well-ventilated area or outdoors.
 - All equipment will be sanitized at the end of each use; personal items and equipment should not be shared.
 - Equipment bags and personal items will be placed 6 feet apart.
 - Sports participants who must practice in groups will be limited to 10 or fewer; participants must remain with the same group and not mix with, or rotate to, other groups.
 - Multiple groups can practice in one large area/field as long as separate groups are able to physically distance from one another including no floating coaches, teachers, or support staff across student cohorts
 - Groups of participants will be staggered to ensure physical distancing and avoid mixing participants in high-traffic areas (e.g. pool decks, locker rooms, drop-off, and pick-up).
- Use visuals (i.e. marks on the ground) and give frequent reminders for practicing physical distancing.
 - Physical activities that require less contact with surfaces will be encouraged.
 - Gatherings and events will be delayed until state guidance is provided.
 - The California Department of Public Health is to be issuing Guidance on Youth Sports any day. When it is released, it will be the minimum standard to be followed. Counties can be more restrictive, but not less restrictive than the state guidance that is issued.



KEEP
YOUR
DISTANCE



WITHIN CLASSROOMS



STUDENTS' SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING

Time away from school has been challenging for most students. Teachers and other staff on campus will be assisting students in making a positive adjustment back to school.



INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM

Distance learning has created differences in learning and support. Teachers and other support staff will be assessing students to determine where gaps may exist in order to help fill the gaps and accelerate learning.



TRAINING FOR STUDENTS

Teachers and other support staff will take time with students to talk about what has changed on the school campus since students left. Training will be provided in healthy hygiene practices, use of space on school campuses, keeping physically distant as much as possible, and how movement through the campus walkways may have changed.



CHOIR AND BAND

Choir and band are not permitted because of the greater risk associated with droplets in the air as a result of singing and playing an instrument where air is blown through the mouth. Activities that involve singing must only take place outdoors.

MEDICALLY FRAGILE, SPECIAL EDUCATION AND HANDICAPPED STUDENTS

STUDENTS WITH UNDERLYING HEALTH CONDITIONS

Families are encouraged to discuss safety concerns regarding return to class with their child's healthcare provider to determine if the student should continue with remote learning through the fall.

STUDENTS WITH MOBILITY, EMOTIONAL, BEHAVIORAL, DEVELOPMENTAL NEEDS

Classroom staff will use all appropriate prevention measures and will encourage students to do the same as able.

STUDENTS RECEIVING SPECIALIZED PHYSICAL HEALTHCARE PROCEDURES

Procedures will continue to be performed by trained staff members using appropriate precautions and protective equipment.



COVID-19 RESURGENCE AND SCHOOL PLANS

COVID-19 PROCEDURES

Communication and coordination with our families will be a critical part to reopening schools for the 2020-2021 school year. Each school will provide families with a COVID-19 contact person to ask school-related COVID-19 questions.

Close Contact of someone with COVID-19

If a student or staff member is determined to be a close contact of someone that has tested positive for COVID-19, that student/staff will be quarantined at home for a minimum of 14 days. The quarantined student may receive distance learning. School will remain open.

School Closing

The California Department of Public Health is monitoring county data to track the level of COVID-19 disease transmission and the impact on the health care system. Counties with data that indicate concerning level of impact on the community are included on the County Monitoring List (CML). The State is allowing counties that are not on the County Monitoring List to start the 2020-2021 school year with in-person instruction. At this time, Shasta County is not on the CML. If Shasta County is added to the CML after the start of school, the school should begin testing staff or increase frequency of staff testing but are not required to close in-person instruction.

Decisions to close individual schools will be on a case by case basis. If there are multiple cases or a high percentage of students/ staff that are COVID-19 cases, temporary closure to in-person instruction might occur. Public Health and school administrators will be working closely throughout the school year.

Procedures to investigate COVID-19 cases at schools will include contact tracing conducted in coordination with school officials. Please be prepared in the event of a classroom or school closure.

Plans will be modified as California Department of Public Health Guidance is updated.

This plan has been developed and revised by representatives from schools and districts using the California Department of Public Health Guidance issued on July 17, 2020. Plans for individual school districts and charter schools will be developed based on the State Public Health Guidance, but may be revised if additional guidance is issued either at the State or County Public Health levels.



SHASTA
COUNTY OFFICE OF
EDUCATION

