

The following plan outline was developed with the collaboration of Merced County elementary school district superintendents. The actions outlined describe measures that will be taken to ensure a safe reopening of schools. Within the outlined actions, each district will have the flexibility to define the details of their plan to best meet the unique needs of their district. It is acknowledged that these plans must be flexible and adaptable as circumstances change with COVID-19. Districts are seeking approval and specific recommendations from Merced Department of Public Health on this plan.

To be completed by Merced Department of Public Health

Fall Reopening of Elementary School Districts		
All schools open as per their regular 2020-2021 adopted district calendar, July or August start dates.	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Approved
Final Approval is pending State determination of authority (i.e., the State releases guidances, or designates authority to Counties in writing). That said, if metrics in this plan are met as described, MCDPH would support schools opening at pre-scheduled dates.	Recommendations leading to approval: Note: if COVID-19 conditions in Merced County change dramatically, changes to these guidelines or distance learning may be required.	
Campuses will service all students five days per week, full day of school with the implementation of the safety actions below.	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Approved
Final Approval is pending State determination of authority (i.e., the State releases guidances, or designates authority to Counties in writing). That said, if metrics in this plan are met as described with changes outlined below, MCDPH would support schools opening at 5 days per week with a full day of school.	Recommendations leading to approval: Note: MCDPH encourages schools to keep class sizes as small as resources allow, including identifying alternative spaces for classes if staffing allows.	
Parents will be given the option to keep their student(s) home and continue to participate in distance learning.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approved	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Approved
	Recommendations leading to approval: Note: MCDPH encourages giving virtual classes to at risk teachers for first priority in teaching.	
Start of the School Day Procedures		
Schools will establish at least two points of entry on to campus.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approved	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Approved
	Recommendations leading to approval:	
Staff will complete a self-wellness check and submit a form to the school office.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approved	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Approved
	Recommendations leading to approval:	
Students will be screened prior to entering campus.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approved	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Approved
Screening could be conducted via app prior to school arrival, or an in person symptom screen, or clear signage at drop off/ entry that drop off/entry is a self=attestation to no symptoms.	Recommendations leading to approval: Note: teachers/staff should be vigilant to changes in student condition/symptoms and refer to nurse for temperature screen/assessment/parent pick up.	
Parents will not be allowed to enter campus during drop off period.	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Approved
A possible exception may need to be made for kindergartners/TK. It is important to prevent crying in students as much as possible - both for the trauma to the student, but also to prevent aerosolization of mouth/nose/eye materials. younger children could be brought, in a staggered fashion, to an anteroom for hand off to an aide/staff or assigned a buddy to walk to class in pairs, for example.	Recommendations leading to approval:	
Students will report direct to their classroom.	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Approved
Could we get more details on how this would be managed in younger grades? See above comments on K/TK. Approved for all grades feasible.	Recommendations leading to approval:	
Breakfast will be delivered to each classroom or students will be allowed to eat in the cafeteria by class cohort if space allows.	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Approved
Cafeteria would only be allowable if it is able to be cleaned between classes/cohorts. Cafeteria could be phased in later in the school year if cases remain stable.	Recommendations leading to approval:	
Students who board the bus to school will be screened by trained staff.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approved	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Approved
	Recommendations leading to approval:	
Buses will be equipped with hand sanitizer and students will be required to sanitize as they board the bus.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approved	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Approved
Additional busing/transportation guidance: -all children who share seats should be masked (mandated in middle/high school) -no more than 2 children per seat. Preference is 1 child per seat. -cohort busing as much as possible -if possible, outfit buses with transparent barriers (such as a shower curtain) between rows on the bus -Keep windows down whenever weather permits	Recommendations leading to approval:	

During the School Day

Students will be required to remain in their class cohort the entire day.



Approved



Not Approved

Recommendations leading to approval:

Breaks/recess will be staggered by class cohorts. Each cohort will have a designated play area and be required to rest/play in designated area.



Approved



Not Approved

Recommendations leading to approval:

A limited number of class cohorts will be allowed outside at any given time period and each cohort will be distanced a minimum of 6 feet.



Approved



Not Approved

Recommendations leading to approval:

Lunch will be brought to each classroom. Students may eat either in their class, in the cafeteria if space allows or outside in designated areas with their class cohort.



Approved



Not Approved

Recommendations leading to approval:

Cafeteria would only be allowable if it is able to be cleaned between classes/cohorts. Cafeteria could be phased in later in the school year if cases remain stable.

Students will be able to use the restroom as needed in pairs of two. Staff will be assigned to monitor restrooms.



Approved



Not Approved

Recommendations leading to approval:

All classrooms will have scheduled time for hand washing throughout the day.



Approved



Not Approved

Recommendations leading to approval:

Hand sanitizer will be available in all classrooms, all school facilities, and in hallways.



Approved



Not Approved

Recommendations leading to approval:

Close of the School Day

Classrooms will be released by a schedule allowing for safe distancing of each class groups.



Approved



Not Approved

Recommendations leading to approval:

For students riding the bus home, buses will be equipped with hand sanitizer and students will be required to sanitize as they board the bus.



Approved



Not Approved

Recommendations leading to approval:

While waiting to board the bus students will remain in their class group with reasonable distancing.



Approved



Not Approved

Recommendations leading to approval:

All school buses will be equipped with disinfectant cleaners to be used as needed by the bus driver.



Approved



Not Approved

Recommendations leading to approval:

Students who are picked up will be done through multiple pick up stations. Parents will be asked not to exit their vehicle or walk on campus.



Approved



Not Approved

Recommendations leading to approval:

Other Safety Measures

All campuses will be closed to the public. There will be one entry point during the instructional day for parents/guardians to access the office in case of an emergency or urgent matters. Parents must wear a mask to enter campus.

☒ Approved

☐ Not Approved

Recommendations leading to approval:

School offices will have two health offices or one partitioned space. One for routine health needs and other for COVID-19 related needs.

☒ Approved

☐ Not Approved

Recommendations leading to approval:

Office counters will be equipped with plexiglass.

☒ Approved

☐ Not Approved

Recommendations leading to approval:

Staff will wear masks during class time.

☒ Approved

☐ Not Approved

Recommendations leading to approval:

Staff can choose between masks and face shields.

Staff will be given opportunities for in class break periods.

☒ Approved

☐ Not Approved

Recommendations leading to approval:

School playground equipment will be accessible on an scheduled basis. Only one class group at a time.

☒ Approved

☐ Not Approved

Recommendations leading to approval:

Vendors will be allowed on campus wearing proper PPE and must be screened or deliveries will be at a designated area.

☒ Approved

☐ Not Approved

Recommendations leading to approval:

Appropriate safety training will be provided to all staff within their respective job function roles.

☒ Approved

☐ Not Approved

Recommendations leading to approval:

Daily Cleaning and Disinfecting

All classrooms, offices, and other used facilities at the school site will be cleaned and disinfected daily per CDC guidelines.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approved	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Approved	Recommendations leading to approval:
All buses will be cleaned and disinfected daily at the end of the day per CDC guidelines.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approved	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Approved	Recommendations leading to approval:
All devices are wiped/disinfected at the end of the day. Note: Devices will be assigned to individual students.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approved	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Approved	Recommendations leading to approval:

Non-negotiables

Bus Transportation provided with one student per seat

Cohorts: Necessary to determine which students & staff may be exposed

6 FT Social Distance of class cohorts: Necessary to help the school community to feel safe from exposure.

3 FT Social Distance in class seating.

No large-groups: Necessary to prevent co-mingling.

No outside visitors during school day: Helps to prevent exposure

Limiting playground equipment use: Difficulty in cleaning and sanitizing regularly

100% student capacity on campus entire school day

Process Guidance

Provide guidance on use of Masks for Students & Staff: A statement from MCPHD allows for continuity among Merced County Districts.

All staff wear a mask or shield. Students are recommended but not required to wear a mask in elementary school. Elementary age students are strongly recommended to wear a mask when sharing a seat on a bus.

Provide guidance & process for Health Screening: A statement & process from MCPHD allows for continuity among Merced County Districts.

Some suggestions for symptom screening are posting signs on all entries making it clear that entry is self-attestation that the student/parent have not had relevant symptoms in last 24 hours, or have an app that parents can fill out each morning before drop off

Provide guidance & process for closure due to exposure: process for closing 1 grade level, 1 cohort, 1 school or entire district.

MCDPH would follow the CDC school closure recommendations, available here:

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/considerations-for-school-closure.pdf?fbclid=IwAR0uFNcJxtHrcrH_Lgb1vURig_TILLtWxOrT1T2ab2yDZ4zVIRoWf9uWLoM

Note these guidelines are unchanged from when school closure was discussed in March. It is anticipated political/parental pressure may affect school closure.

Provide guidance & process on responding to student or staff with COVID signs: A statement & process from MCPHD allows for continuity among Merced County Districts.

All symptomatic staff/students should be immediately isolated and sent home. All individuals should be told to isolate at home until 72 hours after symptoms resolve, and should be tested for COVID-19.

Would the schools like to have a small cache of test kits on site? That is something MCDPH could perhaps facilitate.

Other:

Desks must all face the same direction.

Desks should be three feet from other desks, on all sides.

Windows should be left open in the classroom whenever weather permits.

Teacher desks must be 6 feet from the first row of student desks.

Schools should encourage receipt of seasonal flu vaccine in both students and staff.

Medically fragile or high risk students should be encouraged to participate in distance learning.