

Mother Lode Union School District

COVID - 19 Reopening Plan



Re-Opening Overview

Reopening school in these unique times presents a significant challenge. This plan aligns with recommendations from the El Dorado County Public Health Officer, guidelines from the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), California Department of Public Health, and the California Department of Education, as well as multiple other resources, meetings, and stakeholder surveys.

The plans contained within this document have been developed with the goal of reopening our schools using the following points of reference as guiding considerations:

1. Protecting the health and safety of students, employees, and the community, in our schools, is the primary goal of the plan.
2. The manner and/or degree to which safety guidance from the aforementioned resources is followed will be informed by the local prevalence rate/risk of COVID-19 balanced with practical considerations such as its effect on student learning and well-being, impacts on employees, facility constraints, and fiscal implications.
3. The California Department of Public Health's (CDPH) COVID-19 Industry Guidance: Schools and Schools Based Programs serves as a primary guide for preventing the spread of COVID-19 in our schools.
4. The Public Health Officer for the El Dorado County Department of Public Health serves as an important consultant and authority for assessing the risk of COVID-19 transmission in our communities and schools.
5. In the event the prevalence rate of COVID-19 increases within our community and/or COVID-19 emerges on school sites, the District, in consultation with our County Public Health Officer, will consider modification of components contained within this plan.

General Measures

Limit community entrance into and use of facility to essential activities.

- A. EDCOE extended day will provide limited day care at Indian Creek on days school is in session on site. It will be available for after-school care only.
 - B. Indian Creek and Herbert Green will no longer allow students on campus earlier than 15 minutes before the first bell.
 - C. Parent volunteers will not be utilized in classrooms.
 - D. Parent gatherings will not occur before or after school. Special events (e.g. back to school night, PTC meetings) will need to occur remotely.
 - E. Facility Use requests will not be approved.
-

Promote Healthy Hygiene Practices

Teach and reinforce washing hands, avoiding contact with one's eyes, nose, and mouth, and covering coughs and sneezes among students and staff.

- A. Hand sanitizer will be available in all offices, classrooms, lunch areas, and near play areas.
- B. Face Coverings will be provided to staff and students that arrive at school without one. Face Coverings will not be required to those with a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability that prevents wearing a face covering. Written documentation from a doctor is required. Disposable surgical masks will be available in front offices.
- C. Teachers and School Nurse shall provide developmentally appropriate instruction to students regarding the hygiene practices necessary to stem the spread of the virus.
- D. Teachers shall ensure all students wash their hands using hand

sanitizer or soap and water whenever entering and leaving the room.

- E. Students shall be taught and prompted to wash their hands using sanitizer or soap and water prior to eating, after coughing or sneezing, and before and after using the restroom.
- F. All service providers will model healthy hygiene practices for students including washing hands when entering the classroom.
- G. Students shall use face coverings in the classroom. They are most essential when physical distancing of 6 feet is not practicable. A face covering is mandatory for students riding buses.
- H. Students in grades TK, K, 1st, and 2nd grades, teachers may have their students use face shields instead of face coverings for limited time periods for developmentally appropriate academic activities.
- I. All employees shall wear face coverings. They are most essential when physical distancing of 6 feet is not practicable.
- J. Food-service workers shall use gloves and face coverings whenever interacting with students.
- K. All members of the public entering school offices are required to wear a face covering. Non-surgical masks will be available in front offices.

Intensify Cleaning, Disinfection, and Ventilation

- A. School facilities and buses will be sanitized and disinfected each day with EPA approved cleaning solutions.
- B. School facilities and buses will be disinfected weekly using electrostatic emitters with EPA approved cleaning solutions.
- C. All drinking fountains will be turned off, and students will be encouraged

to bring a water bottle that can be filled at a classroom sink.

- D. Parents may supply their children with cleaning wipes of their choice. The District will only allow student safe cleaning wipes to students.
- E. HVAC systems will be set to maximize circulation of air from outside buildings.
- F. Attempts will be made to limit use of shared objects/materials, when practical. Handwashing will be required prior to and after use of playground equipment.

Implementing Distancing Inside and Outside the Classroom

The District's facilities do not allow for strict implementation of social distancing at 6 feet. Given the current low prevalence rate of COVID-19 within El Dorado County and the Mother Lode Union School District boundaries, the District has determined it will ensure 4-6 feet of separation in classrooms.

Beginning October 12, 2020, Mother Lode Union School District will begin a blended learning model with an A/B schedule. Students in the "A" cohort will receive in-person instruction on Monday and Tuesday, with Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday in Distance Learning. Student in the "B" cohort will have Distance Learning instruction on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, with in-person instruction on Thursday and Friday. Please see our website for the "Blended Learning Student Calendar" for more details.

Should the rate of virus within District Boundaries increase to the point that the El Dorado County Office of Public Health indicates that a change is necessary, a full-time distance learning model may be implemented.

- A. Parents/guardians of TK and K students will have the opportunity to walk students to Kindergarten gate provided they are practicing social distancing of six feet and wearing a face covering.
- B. Parents/guardians of grades 1-8 students should remain in vehicles at drop off and pick up, unless previous arrangements have been made

with site administration.

- C. Visitors entering the front office must maintain 6 feet of social distance and wear a face covering. Offices can only accommodate 1 visitor/family at a time.
- D. Meetings between parents and employees should be conducted remotely whenever practical. In-person meeting participants must wear a face covering and practice social distancing.
- E. Students will be distanced in classrooms or lining up, to the extent practical.
- F. Front offices are provided with protective shields at counters where employees engage with the public.
- G. At middle schools, a block schedule will be implemented in order to reduce the number of students using rooms, each day, and to limit the number of students teachers come in contact with each day. Schedules have been created to reduce mixing of student cohorts.
- H. District facilities will not be available for use.
- I. No volunteers will be allowed. This will be evaluated periodically.
- J. Gatherings such as assemblies, field trips, and competitive athletic events will not occur. This will be evaluated periodically.
- K. Students will be encouraged to socially distance to the extent practicable while eating lunch.

Limit Sharing

There are many materials that are typically shared within classrooms. To the extent practical, sharing will be limited. In the event materials are to be shared, students must wash their hands prior to and after sharing. Some materials can be wiped down (e.g., P.E. and Recess Equipment) when practical.

Train All Staff and Educate Families

Training and regular communications regarding the following topics will occur:

- Sanitation practices
- Physical distancing
- Face coverings
- Screening practices
- COVID-19 symptom identification
- Proper use, removal, and washing of face coverings

Signage will be posted throughout the site to remind students, employees, and the public of the practices that will minimize the possibility of COVID-19 spreading on campuses.

Check for Signs and Symptoms

- A. Staff shall conduct daily self-health screenings prior to arrival at the school site using the “Symptom Screening Prior to Entry” form (see appendix). Staff that arrive at their site are attesting they have passed the “Symptom Screening Prior to Entry”.
- B. School staff will conduct visual health screenings during the school day, referencing the “Symptoms of Coronavirus” form provided. In the case that a student exhibits symptoms during the school day, the student will safely transition to the Care Room and the parent/guardian will be contacted for student pick-up. Staff that exhibit symptoms will be sent home.
- C. All recording and reporting requirements will be followed for all confirmed or suspected cases of COVID-19.

Plan for When a Staff Member, Child, or Visitor Becomes Sick

District Care Procedures have been developed and are continuously being updated based on federal, state, local guidance. The District Care Procedures inform student and staff procedures which promote proactive health, safety, and hygiene practices. This document can be found on our District Intranet in Staff Resources.

Considerations for School or District Closure

In the event that COVID-19 is confirmed on a school site, the El Dorado County Department of Public Health will be immediately contacted by the District Superintendent or a designee for guidance regarding the need for closure.

Options for closure, based on the guidance from El Dorado County Public Health, may range from 3-5 days to indefinite. A closure may impact single sites or the entire District.

In the event of a closure, teachers will be prepared to shift to providing Distance Learning that incorporates a combination of direct instruction and independent learning activities.