



# SISKIYOU COUNTY

## Health and Human Services Agency

### Public Health Division

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## Re: Health Officer Guidance and Recommendations for Siskiyou County Re-opening of Schools and Similar Facilities

Aaron Stutz, MD Siskiyou County Health Officer has designed these recommendations and guidance to supersede all similar orders, recommendations, and guidance pertaining to the reopening of schools and to be applicable to all schools and similar facilities in Siskiyou County (public and private) with staff and students on campus. The recommendations and guidance are in accordance with the guidance and recommendations from the California Department of Public Health, the Regional Association of Northern California Health Officers, and the California Department of Education.

- School districts may choose to pursue more restrictive requirements.

### Symptoms:

Any student or school staff member with a temperature of 100.4 °F or greater, or other primary COVID symptoms (body aches, chills, respiratory symptoms) should be excluded from the school site for 10 days from the onset of symptoms, **AND** at least 24 hours have passed without a fever (without the use of fever reducing medications) **AND** symptoms have improved.

A symptomatic person may be allowed to return earlier if he or she also meets the following criteria:

1. A negative test for COVID-19 within 3-8 days after the start of symptoms, **AND**
2. Written clearance by his or her healthcare provider

Individuals who test positive for COVID-19 and who never develop symptoms may return to work or school 10 days after the date of their first positive test for COVID-19.

Requiring a negative COVID-19 test prior to returning to work or school after a febrile (fever) illness is highly recommended.

Students and staff **who have not received a negative COVID-19 test** and who reside in a household with a COVID positive person must not return to work or school for 14 days from their last exposure to the COVID positive person.

### Close Contacts to a Confirmed Positive Case:

Public Health will notify School staff or students who are in close contact with anyone who is COVID 19 positive and these persons will be excluded from school for 14 days from their last exposure to the ill person.

**Face Coverings (refer to the CDPH guidance for information on exemptions from this requirement):**

- Students
  - Face coverings required for students in grades 3-12, strongly recommended for grades TK/K-2); may be removed for eating, drinking and outside activities if at least six feet of physical distance is maintained
- Staff
  - Face coverings required for all staff at all times except when eating or drinking. May be removed when alone in a classroom or outside without students present.
  - Face shields that wrap around the face and extend below the wearer's chin, with a cloth drape attached to the bottom (and it is strongly recommend that it be tucked into the wearer's clothing) may be worn by a teacher in limited situations where the students for pedagogical or development reasons are assisted in being able to see the wear's lips or to assist in communication. When wearing a face shield, six-foot distancing must be maintained where possible. The wearer should return to wearing a face covering when outside of the classroom in circumstances described herein where it's required.
  - Face coverings are not required by staff when alone inside.

A student or staff member exempted from wearing a face covering due to a medical condition should present a letter from a California licensed healthcare provider, unless the basis for not being able to wear a face covering is well established or obvious, and should be required to wear a non-restrictive alternative, such as a face shield with a drape, as long as his or her condition permits it.

**Physical Distancing:**

- Students
  - All students must maintain three to six feet physical distance from others where reasonably possible
- Staff
  - Staff must maintain physical distance of at least six feet from others to the extent possible

**Screening:**

- Students
  - Passive screening required
- Staff
  - Active screening preferred but passive screening program is permissible.

**Student Transportation:**

- Unless physical constraints of the vehicle preclude it, at least six feet of distance between the bus driver and students when seated
- Bus drivers and students must wear face coverings at all times while awaiting and riding on buses unless a medical condition as described herein precludes it.
- Unless physical constraints of the vehicle preclude it, maximize physical distancing between students on the bus by limiting available seats as practicable and no more than 2 students per seat.
- Assign seating; if possible, assign seats by cohort. Students from same family should sit together.
- Open windows for increased circulation as weather allows.
- Stagger arrival and drop off-times and locations as consistently as practicable as to minimize

scheduling challenges for families.

- Designate routes for entry and exit, using as many entrances as feasible. Put in place other protocols to limit direct contact with others as much as practicable.
- Ensure each bus is equipped with extra unused face coverings for students.

### **Specialized Physical Healthcare Procedures:**

- Inhalers
  - Inhalers with spacers recommended
  - Inhalers without spacers are permitted by having the student remove the portion of the face covering over the mouth for the inhalation of the medication, and re-cover the nose and mouth for exhalation.
- Aerosol Generating Procedures (nebulizer treatment; oral, nasal, tracheal suctioning, tracheostomy care)
  - Must be performed in a separate room that allows for privacy, has good ventilation, is outside of the classroom and away from others
  - Healthcare providers performing aerosol generating procedures are required to don full PPE (long sleeve fluid repellent gown, N95 face mask, eye shield, gloves)
  - Nebulizer treatments are discouraged, inhalers with spacers preferred
  - Space used for aerosol generating procedures must be thoroughly cleaned between uses in accordance with CalOSHA guidelines
- Speech and Language Therapy/Educational Testing
  - The specialist performing testing or therapy and the student, while maintain six feet physical distance, may wear a face shield that wraps around the wearer's face and extends below the chin with a cloth drape attached to the bottom of the shield. The cloth drape should be tucked into the wearer's clothing. Once the testing or therapy is complete, both the specialist and the student must put on a cloth face covering before leaving the room.
- Home visits
  - Not recommended at this time unless they can be done in an area outside.

These recommendations and guidance are applicable to TK/K-12 schools, and, to the extent practicable (face coverings not recommended for newborns, infants, and toddlers), to all preschools and childcare centers, regardless of whether public or private, in Siskiyou County and are given with consideration of local epidemiological data and local preparedness to support a health care surge, vulnerable populations, and contact tracing and testing. These recommendations and guidance are a supplement to the COVID 19 Industry Guidance for Schools and School-Based Programs release on August 3, 2020 (<https://files.covid19.ca.gov/pdf/guidance-schools.pdf>) and are specifically for Siskiyou County schools and other facilities described herein.

Guidance for Face Coverings from the CDPH:

[https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/CDPH%20Document%20Library/COVID-19/Guidance-for-Face-Coverings\\_06-18-2020.pdf](https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/CDPH%20Document%20Library/COVID-19/Guidance-for-Face-Coverings_06-18-2020.pdf)



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