

COMPREHENSIVE OVERVIEW OF GUIDANCE UPDATES

[COVID-19 and Reopening In-Person Instruction Framework & Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools in California, 2020-2021 School Year](#)

NEW GUIDANCE (January 2021)	PREVIOUS GUIDANCE
<u>SCHOOL REOPENING PROCESS:</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schools in a local health jurisdiction in a Tier other than Purple under the Blueprint for a Safer Economy Framework can reopen 5 days after the LEA completes and post the CSP publicly on its website homepage. Elementary Schools: Grades K-6 may reopen when local health jurisdiction is in Purple Tier only if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the case rate is below 25/100,000 (CR<25); and CSP posted publicly and submitted concurrently to LHD and State Safe Schools for All Team and a 7 day review period has passed without any feedback from reviewers. <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(for more details: pg 9-12)</i></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schools can reopen when their local health jurisdiction has been in the Red Tier (or below) under the Blueprint for a Safer Economy for at least two weeks. Elementary Schools located within local health jurisdiction that were in the Purple Tier could apply for a waiver from the local health officer (LHO) to open an grades K-6 for in-person learning. (<i>CDPH 7/17/20, pg 1</i>)
<u>COVID-19 SAFETY PLAN (CSP):</u>	
<p>All schools must complete and post to their website homepages a COVID-19 Safety Plan prior to reopening for in-person instruction. The CSP consists of two parts: 1) the Cal/OSHA COVID-19 Prevention Program (CPP) and 2) the COVID-19 School Guidance Checklist. (<i>pg 10</i>)</p>	<p>COVID-19 School Site-Specific Protection Plan (SSPP)</p>
<u>SYMPTOM AND EXPOSURE SCREENING:</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement symptom and exposure screening for all staff and students at home each day before leaving for school. (<i>pg 27</i>) Schools do not need to monitor compliance with home screening. (<i>pg 28</i>) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement health screenings of students and staff upon arrival at school (<i>CA For All 8/3/2020, pg 12</i>)

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FACE COVERINGS:	
Teach and reinforce use of face coverings, or in limited instances, face shields with drapes . (pg 16)	Teach and reinforce use of face coverings, or in limited instances, face shields. (CA For All 8/3/2020, pg 7)
CLASSROOM SPACE:	
Distance student chairs at least 6 feet from one another, except where not possible after good-faith effort. <i>Under no circumstance should distance between student chairs be less than 4 feet</i> (pg 21)	Consider ways to establish separation of students through other means if practicable, such as, six feet between desks, where practicable... (CA For All 8/3/2020, pg 12)
WHAT TO DO IF THERE IS A CONFIRMED OR SUSPECTED CASE IN A SCHOOL:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Close contact with a confirmed case:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Exclude from school for 10 days from last exposure ○ School community notification of a known case. No communication needed if exposure did not happen in school setting ● <i>Confirmed case:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Identify school contacts, inform the LHD of identified contacts, and exclude contacts (possibly the entire stable group) from school for 10 days after the last date the case was present at school while infectious. ○ New: Notification of persons with potential exposure if case was present in school while infectious ● <i>Symptomatic person tests negative or a healthcare provider has provided documentation that the symptoms are typical of their underlying chronic condition:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ May return to school after 24 hours have passed without fever and symptoms have started improving. (pg 31-32) ● New guidance outlines the collaboration between Local Health Departments and Schools in more detail (pg 33-37) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Close contact with a confirmed case:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Quarantine for 14 days from last exposure ○ School community notification of a known case ● <i>Confirmed case:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Identify contacts, quarantine & exclude exposed contacts (likely entire cohort) for 14 days after the last date the case was present at school while infectious. ● <i>Tests negative after symptoms:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ May return to school 3 days after symptoms resolve. <p>(CDPH 7/17/20, pg 3)</p>

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NEW GUIDANCE (January 2021)	PREVIOUS GUIDANCE
REPORTING POSITIVE CASES:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effective immediately, every local educational agency and private school in California shall notify its local health officer of any known case of COVID19 among any student or employee who was present on a K-12 public or private school campus within the 10 days preceding a positive test for COVID-19. (pg 47) This information shall be reported to the local health officer by telephone within twenty-four hours from the time an individual within the local educational agency or private school is first made aware of a new case. (pg 47) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Employers must notify the LHD in the jurisdiction where the workplace is located if there is a known or suspected outbreak in the workplace. (CDPH 9/18/2020)
TESTING:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any school currently open is subject to the minimum testing requirement standards established by Cal/OSHA. These standards include response testing for exposed cases and outbreak testing for everyone weekly until no longer considered an outbreak. Please refer to Cal/OSHA guidance for complete details. (pg 40) The state of California has put into place support for a testing cadence through supplemental testing supplies, shipment, laboratory capacity, enrollment and reporting technology, training, and assistance with insurance reimbursement. (pg 39) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School districts and schools shall test staff periodically, as testing capacity permits and as practicable. (CDPH 7/17/20, pg 2)
OUTBREAKS:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Definition:</i> 3 or more confirmed or probable cases of staff or students occurring within a 14-day period who are epidemiologically linked in the school, are from different households and are not contacts of each other in any other investigation cases (e.g., transmission likely occurred in the school setting) (pg 35) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outbreak definition present at a CDPH web document did not explicitly name students. (CDPH 9/18/2020)

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SCHOOL CLOSURE DETERMINATIONS:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Within a 14-day period, an outbreak has occurred in 25% or more stable groups in the school. • Within a 14-day period, at least three outbreaks have occurred in the school AND more than 5% of the school population is infected. • The LHO may also determine school closure is warranted for other reasons, including results from public health investigation or other local epidemiological data. (pg 37) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual school closure may be appropriate when there are multiple cases in multiple cohorts at a school. • At least 5 percent of the total number of teachers/students/staff are cases within a 14-day period, depending on the size and physical layout of the school. • The Local Health Officer may also determine school closure is warranted for other reasons, including results from public health investigation or other local epidemiological data. (CDPH 7/17/20, pg 4)
CLEANING AND DISINFECTION:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frequent disinfection, which was thought at the beginning of the pandemic to be a key safety component, can pose a health risk to children and students due to the chemicals used and has proven to have limited to no impact on COVID19 transmission. Disinfection with specified products (...) is recommended for schools after a case has been identified in the school, in the spaces where the case spent a large proportion of their time. (pg 15) • Desks or chairs do not need daily cleaning if only used by one individual during the day (pg 26) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff should clean and disinfect frequently-touched surfaces at school and on school buses at least daily and, as practicable, these surfaces should be cleaned and disinfected frequently throughout the day by trained custodial staff. (CA For All 8/3/2020, pg 9) • N/A
TRANSPORTATION:	
<p>Maximize space between students and between students and the driver on school buses and open windows to the greatest extent practicable. Two windows on a bus should be opened fully at a minimum. (pg 21)</p>	<p>Maximize space between students and between students and the driver on school buses and open windows to the greatest extent practicable. (CA For All 8/3/2020, pg 11)</p>

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<u>BAND AND CHOIR PRACTICE:</u>	
<p>Outdoor singing and band practice are permitted, provided that precautions such as physical distancing and mask wearing are implemented to the maximum extent possible. (pg 23)</p>	<p>Activities where there is increased likelihood for transmission from contaminated exhaled droplets such as band and choir practice and performances are not permitted. (CA For All 8/3/2020, pg 14)</p>
<u>SCHOOL ATHLETIC ACTIVITIES:</u>	
<p>School athletic activities and sports should follow the CDPH Outdoor and Indoor Youth and Adult Recreational Guidance. (pg 23)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outdoor and indoor sporting events (...) and other activities that require close contact or that would promote congregating are not permitted at this time. • Youth sports and physical education are permitted only when the following can be maintained: (1) physical distancing of at least six feet; and (2) a stable cohort, such as a class, that limits the risks of transmission (...) (CA For All 8/3/2020, pg 13-14)
<u>PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT:</u>	
<p>If used, outdoor playgrounds/natural play areas only need routine maintenance. (...) When hand hygiene is emphasized, cleaning of outdoor structures play is not required between cohorts. (pg 26)</p>	<p>Limit use and sharing of (...) <i>playground equipment</i> to the extent practicable. When shared use is allowed, clean and disinfect between uses. (CA For All 8/3/2020, pg 10)</p>

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REPORTING IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beginning January 25, 2021, every local educational agency and private school in California shall notify the California Department of Public Health whether it is serving students in-person. This reporting shall continue every other Monday (or the Tuesday immediately following, if the Monday is a state holiday) until this directive is modified or rescinded. (pg 50) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A
VACCINATION:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CDPH strongly recommends that all persons eligible to receive COVID-19 vaccines receive them at the first opportunity. Currently, people under 16 are not eligible for the vaccine since trials for that group are still underway. Upcoming vaccine guidance document that will be available on the Safe Schools for All Hub. (pg 40) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No mention of COVID-19 vaccination guidance.