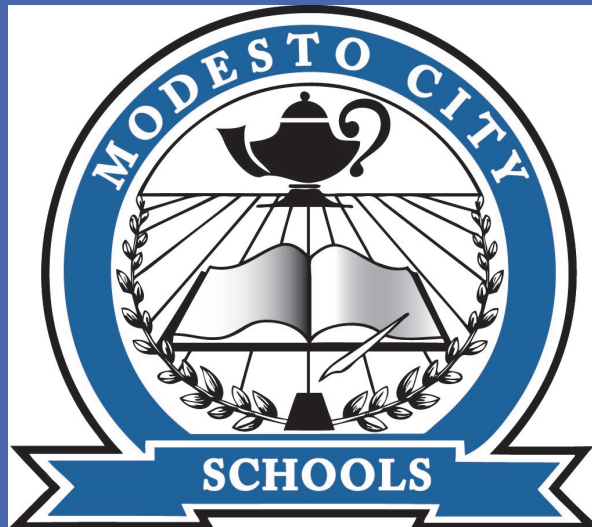


MODESTO CITY SCHOOLS



TK-6 ELEMENTARY EDUCATION WAIVER APPLICATION



BACKGROUND INFORMATION

On August 3, the State of California/California Department of Public Health released information on a “COVID-19 and Reopening In-Person Learning Elementary Education Waiver Process.” At the time, CDPH recommended that schools within jurisdictions with 14-day case rates more than two times the threshold to be on the County Monitoring list (>200 cases per 100,000 population) should not be considered for a waiver to re-open in-person instruction. That same month, on August 28, Governor Newsom unveiled a *Blueprint for Safer Economy* with four colored tiers to indicate extent of COVID-19 transmission in a community. As of October 19, 2020, Stanislaus County recently moved to the “red” tier of “substantial” community transmission of COVID-19; although 14-days must lapse in the “red” tier before schools can be permitted to reopen without a waiver application.

Modesto City Schools, like most of the public and private schools in our county, began the school year with a distance learning model of instruction. Given Stanislaus County is still in the 14-day period of recently being reclassified to the “red” tier, in order for MCS to be eligible to reopen TK-6 schools for in-person instruction, an elementary waiver must be submitted.

Name of Applicant: Modesto City Schools

Superintendent Name: Sara Noguchi, Ed.D.

Number of Schools Serving TK-6 Students: 22

Total TK-6 Enrollment as of October 19, 2020: 10,932

Date of Proposed Reopening:

- Grades TK-2 (including pre-school): November 2, 2020;
- Grades 3-6: November 9, 2020
- *Note: The MCS reopening date will be determined in consultation with the Stanislaus County Public Health Officer and in consideration of the most current COVID-19 infection data for our county.)*

Students will return in a Hybrid Model Learning Model or parents may elect to keep students at home in a distance learning format. Students in the Hybrid Model will be split into two cohorts with each receiving two days of in-person instruction, three days of at-home independent and online learning. Students returning to in-person instruction will be staggered by grade level spans in a measured approach to adjust to new health and safety protocols as the population increases on campus.

Name of Person Completing Application: Sara Noguchi, Ed.D.

Phone Number: (209) 574-1616

Email: Noguchi.S@mcs4kids.com

Plan Posted on MCS Website: www.mcs4kids.com

Name

Date

By signing this application, I verify that the information contained within is true and correct to the best of my abilities and that all constituent groups were consulted prior to the application of the waiver for in-person instruction.

CONSULTATION

Labor Organizations

- Name of Organization(s) and Date(s) Consulted: MCS consulted on various dates with the Modesto Teachers Association and the California School Employees Association (CSEA). These groups have been part of the planning process, and the District continues to communicate regularly with group leadership. Specifically, the District began consulting with the labor organizations on the reopening plan in mid-September and continued to collaborate throughout the month of October.

Online Community Forums: MCS Safe Schools TK-6 DRAFT Reopening Plan



THURS., 10/1, 6-7pm

MON., 10/5, 4-5pm

NOTE: Each forum will present the same information.

Access Live Online Events Here:

<http://bit.ly/Oct1-CommunityForum>

<http://bit.ly/Oct5-CommunityForum>

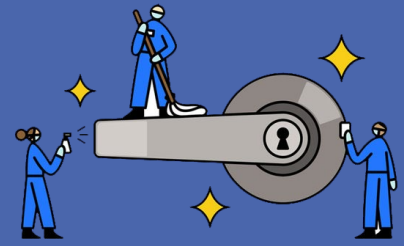
WE NEED TO HEAR FROM YOU! Please review the draft plan and provide feedback via the online survey (English & Spanish):

<http://bit.ly/MCS-Reopening-Plan>

Parent/Community Organizations/Other

- September 8: MCS Board of Trustees Meeting
 - Presented initial overview of reopening waiver specifics and timeline
- September 10: Presentation to MCS Key Communicators (external) group to solicit feedback on reopening timeline from community perspective
- September 24: Consultation on reopening to obtain feedback from District English Learner Advisory Committee (includes one Spanish-speaking parent representative per school)
- September 29-October 7: Reopening plan survey administered (parents & staff) (3,936 responses)
- October 1 & 5: Virtual TK-6 Reopening Forums
 - Staff, parents, and community invited to Microsoft Teams Live online events
- October 12: MCS Board of Trustees Workshop
 - Draft reopening plan discussion
- October 19: MCS Board of Trustees Meeting
 - Final reopening plan and waiver presentation

I. CLEANING AND DISINFECTION



How shared surfaces will be regularly cleaned and disinfected and how use of shared items will be minimized.

Custodial Staff

- Each school's custodial staff has the appropriate products, tools, equipment and training to provide enhanced disinfection at all schools and district facilities.
- Each school has all products kept out of student's reach and stored in a space with restricted access.
- On-site custodians available for emergency cleaning throughout the school day.
- On Wednesdays, schools will be deep cleaned between changes in cohort attendance.
- The District has additional substitute sanitation helpers available for cleaning throughout the day of high touch areas and surfaces on campus as well as increased disinfection of restrooms.

Teachers/Classified Staff

- Staff at each school will continue cleaning of high touch areas and surfaces in individuals' work areas throughout the day, including:
 - Tables/Desks in classrooms
 - Chairs in classrooms
 - Doorknobs
 - Teacher area/space
 - Chromebooks/MCS electronic devices
- Each classroom will be equipped with a supply of EPA approved disinfecting spray, paper towels, and hand sanitizer.

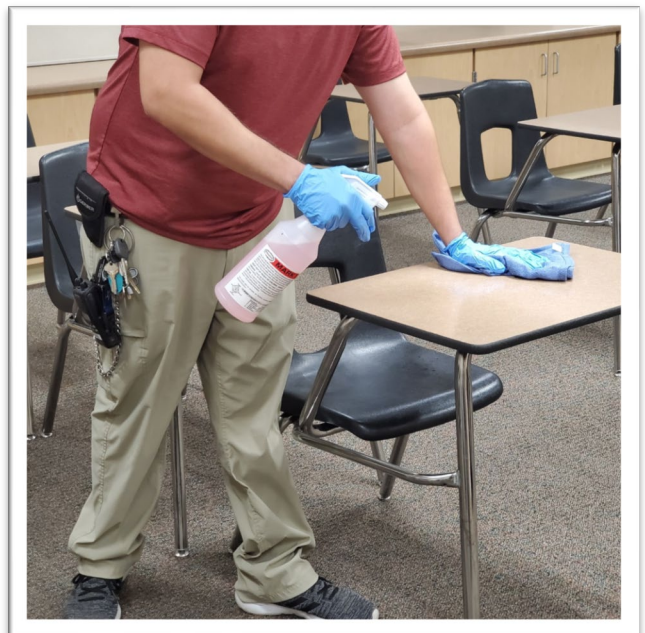
Transportation Staff & Buses

- Buses will be cleaned and disinfected regularly. Drivers have been provided EPA approved cleaning/disinfecting materials.
- All buses will be stocked with mounted hand sanitizer for use upon entry/exit. Buses also have temperature scanners that are being installed for student use upon entry.

Limit Sharing Between Students

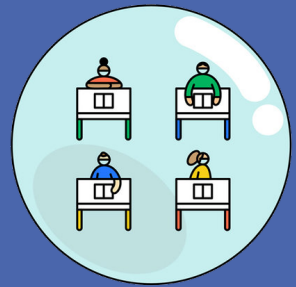
- To the greatest extent possible, each student's belongings will be kept separate and in individually labeled storage containers, backpacks, cubbies or areas.
- Personal belongings will be taken home each day to be cleaned. (e.g., water bottle, lunch bag, coats, etc.)
- Each student will be issued their own school supplies (pencils, markers, scissors, etc.) and will also have their own books, workbooks, and other instructional materials.
- Students will not be permitted to share food or drink.
- Outside water fountains have been turned off and students will be encouraged to bring their own water bottles.

More information can be found in the *MCS Safe Schools Reopening Plan for Elementary Education* on pages 13-14 and 20-21.



2. COHORTING

How students will be kept in small, stable, groups with fixed membership that stay together for all activities (e.g., instruction, lunch, recess) and minimize/avoid contact with other groups or individuals who are not part of the cohort.



- Students attending in-person will do so with their grade level cohorts, split into two groups, and receive in-person instruction two days per week in order to maintain the CDPH recommended guidelines of 6-feet of distance between each student, and between teachers and students (when practicable).
- Students will remain with their small, stable classroom cohort including during recess and lunch (to the extent possible):
 - Recess will be held in separate areas designated by class and will be used by each cohort on a rotational basis. Contact sports and activities that encourage close contact will be avoided.
 - Students will remain with their cohort during lunch, eating individually plated/bagged meals.
- Students will not mix with other stable classroom cohorts.
- Transportation:
 - Seats will be marked off to support physical distancing.
 - Students will sit together by family.
 - Students will board the bus loading from the back to the front and then will exit from the front to the back.
 - Buses are in the process of being equipped with hand sanitizers and temperature scanners for use before entering.



More information can be found in the *MCS Safe Schools Reopening Plan for Elementary Education* on pages 11-12.

3. ENTRANCE, EGRESS, AND MOVEMENT WITHIN THE SCHOOL

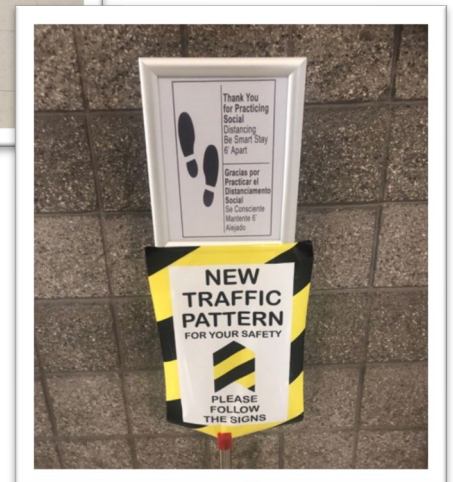
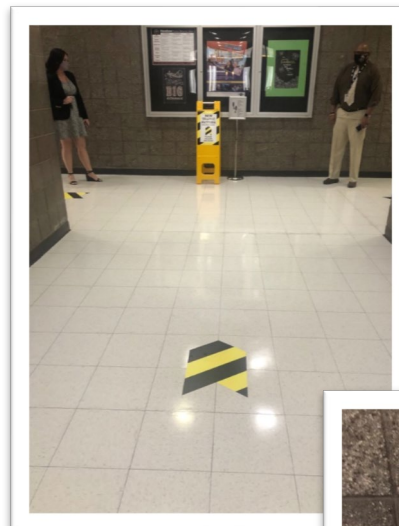
How movement of students, staff, and parents will be managed to avoid close contact and/or mixing of cohorts.



- Each school has implemented procedures to support 6-feet physical distancing (when practicable) for staff and students as they enter, exit, and move throughout the school day, including:
 - Altering offices, reception area, and all other common space for physical distancing.
 - Several entry and exit points for all staff, students, and parents.
 - Cohorts of students will be assigned a timeframe for arrival and departure from an assigned point.
 - Parents are encouraged to remain in their vehicles, if possible, and drop off students at designated areas.
 - Posting signs in meeting rooms/front office limiting the capacity and layout for physical distancing.
 - Passing periods and break times will be staggered to avoid congestion.
 - Placing signs and/or markers to assist with physical distancing, including:
 - “Stand here” markers where students or staff are required to assemble or wait in line
 - “One Way” and traffic pattern markers to establish single direction flow in hallways
 - At restrooms to:
 - Limit entry to students from specific classrooms nearby
 - Limit the number of students using it at one time
 - Indicate where to wait in line

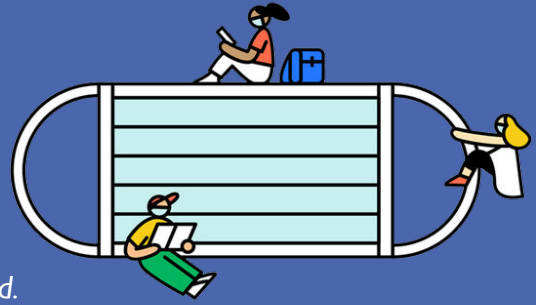
- To the greatest extent possible, students will be spaced apart on buses and masks will be required for grades 3-6. Windows will be opened for increased airflow, weather permitting. Buses will be equipped with extra face coverings for students without one. Every student will be provided hand sanitizer upon entry into the bus.
- Use of volunteers at school sites has been suspended.

More information can be found in the *MCS Safe Schools Reopening Plan for Elementary Education* on page 9-10.



4. FACE COVERINGS AND OTHER ESSENTIAL PROTECTIVE GEAR

How CDPH's face covering requirements will be satisfied and enforced.



- All staff and students (grades 3-6) will utilize face coverings as indicated by recommendations from the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) and the [California Department of Public Health \(CDPH\)](#).
- Students in TK-2 will be strongly encouraged but are not required to wear face coverings; however, face shields will be available upon parent request.
- Students who fall within the CDPH guidelines for individual exemption must provide documentation from a doctor and will be encouraged to wear a plastic face shield with a drape.
- Staff who fall within the CDPH guidelines for individual exemption will work with Human Resources for reasonable accommodations.
- Students and staff will be administered personal face coverings and each school has a supply of disposable face coverings for anyone who fails to bring one to school.
- Students who refuse to wear a face-covering but are not exempt from doing so will not be permitted to remain on campus or ride the bus. These students will be given the option of distance learning from home.

More information can be found in the *MCS Safe Schools Reopening Plan for Elementary Education* on pages 18-19.

WHAT TYPE OF MASK IS OKAY?

Students are encouraged to bring their own face mask. If they do not have one, they will be issued a disposable one.

All MCS *students and staff will be required to wear a face mask with two-play material.

APPROVED	NOT APPROVED
Cloth Face Masks District-issued, store-bought or handmade any pattern (as long as school appropriate)	Bandanas Bandanas do not sufficiently prevent the spread of respiratory droplets
Disposable Surgical Face Mask	Gaiters Gaiters do not sufficiently prevent the spread of respiratory droplets
	Masks with Valves Valves release exhaled droplets, and don't protect others

*TK-2 students strongly encouraged to wear a face covering. CDPH exemptions may apply.

HOW CAN I HELP MY STUDENT ADAPT TO WEARING A MASK?

- 1 EXPLAIN WHY**
 - Provide clear and simple information using positive phrasing.
 - "Masks help us from spreading germs to others."
 - "Wearing a mask protects others from our germs."
- 2 PROVIDE BACKGROUND**
 - "You and your classmates will wear a mask at school."
 - "Students riding the bus will wear masks to help them not spread any germs."
 - "Make sure you listen to your teacher and keep your mask on except for times when okay to remove such as at lunch."
- 3 PRACTICE**
 - Break putting on a mask into smaller steps:
 - Hold the mask by the ear loops/ties
 - Place the mask against your face
 - Secure the ear loops/ties
 - Keep the mask on until an adult says you can take it off
 - Take the mask off by ear loops/ties
 - Keep the mask in a clean spot (on a desk or in a labeled bag)
 - Practice the steps above for a 5-10 minutes each day
 - Give positive reinforcement
 - Model mask wearing for your student

Keep In Mind:

- According to the CDC, fabric masks should be laundered every day.
- We will have disposable masks available for students who forget theirs.

5. HEALTH SCREENINGS FOR STUDENTS AND STAFF

How students and staff will be screened for symptoms of COVID-19 and how ill students or staff will be separated from others and sent home immediately.



Staff

- Completion of MCS COVID-19 MCS Self-Screening Log:


- I certify to the best of my knowledge that I'm not experiencing any COVID-19 related symptoms such as fever (100.4°/38°C or higher), cough, shortness of breath or respiratory illness, lack of taste or smell, onset of unexplained gastrointestinal illness or any other symptoms associated with COVID-19.
- I certify to the best of my knowledge that I have not been in contact with anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19 within the past 14 days.
- I certify to the best of my knowledge that I have not been in ****close contact** with anyone, who is experiencing symptoms related to COVID-19 or who may have come into contact with someone that is COVID-19 positive within the past 14 days. I certify that I have not traveled outside the continental United States within the past 14 days. (****Close contact is defined as: Being within approximately 6 feet of a COVID-19 case for a prolonged period of time (15 minutes or more); close contact can occur while caring for, living with, visiting, or sharing a healthcare facility waiting area room with a COVID-19 case or having direct contact with infectious droplets of a COVID-19 case (being coughed on). Employees who are not able to self-certify for any reason must report the circumstances to their immediate supervisor.**)

- Staff members who have a temperature of 100.4°F (38°C) or higher or demonstrate symptoms will leave campus to return home.
- Health screening safety signage posted on all school entrances.

Students

- Daily home screening of all students for COVID-19 symptoms utilizing “Daily Checklist for Families.”
- Student entry to campus/classroom will include a brief visual screening for symptoms of illness.
- School Nurses/Health Techs will strive to conduct daily surveillance temperature checks using touchless thermometers of random classrooms.
- Students who have a temperature of 100.4°F(38°C) or higher or demonstrate COVID-19 like symptoms will be isolated in a quarantine area until they can be picked up by a family member.

More information can be found in the *MCS Safe Schools Reopening Plan for Elementary Education* on pages 25-29.







Daily Checklist for Families

Monitor your student for the following symptoms and keep your student home if ANY of the following are true:

- ☒ If your student experiences ONE of the following symptoms:
 - Fever (100.4°/38°C or greater) (**Please check your student's temperature the night before school and keep home the next day if running a fever.**)
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- ☒ If your student experiences any of the following symptoms:
 - Fatigue
 - Muscle or body aches
 - Headache
 - New loss of taste or smell
 - Sore throat
 - Congestion or runny nose
 - Nausea or vomiting
 - Diarrhea
- ☒ In the past 14 days, has your student had close contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19?

If so, please follow all health department/physician ordered quarantine directions.

Students should bring daily:



Chromebook

Water Bottle

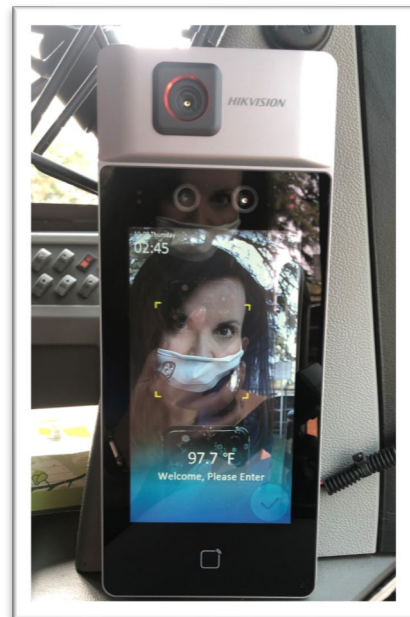
Face Coverings

6. HEALTHY HYGIENE PRACTICES

The availability of handwashing stations and hand sanitizer, and how their use will be promoted and incorporated into routines.



- All classrooms have been equipped with mounted hand sanitizer dispensers and the majority of elementary classrooms also have a sink.
- All school buses have hand sanitizer dispensers available for student and staff use.
- Each school has implemented routines to enable students and staff to regularly wash their hands at staggered intervals focusing on COVID-19 prevention measures:
 - Before and after using restroom
 - Before and after eating
 - After coughing or sneezing
 - When entering a classroom or office
 - After taking off or putting on their cloth face covering
 - After prolonged exposure to high touch areas
- Each school will use video/print resources to reinforce [washing hands](#), avoiding contact with one's eyes, nose, and mouth, and [covering coughs and sneezes](#) among students and staff.



More information can be found in the *MCS Safe Schools Reopening Plan for Elementary Education* on page 17.

7. IDENTIFICATION AND TRACING OF CONTACTS

Actions that staff will take when there is a confirmed case. Confirm that the school(s) have designated staff person(s) to support contact tracing, such as creation and submission of lists of exposed students and staff to the local health department and notification of exposed persons. Each school must designate a person for the local health department to contact about COVID-19.

Identification

If a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19:

- Student/staff will be sent home if not already quarantined
- Student/staff instructed to isolate for 14 days after symptom onset OR 10 days after resolution of symptoms, whichever is longer. (If never symptomatic, isolate for 14 days after positive test.)
- School-based close contacts identified and instructed to test and quarantine for 14 days
 - In stable elementary classroom cohorts, entire cohort notified
 - In other settings, use seating chart, consult with teacher/staff
 - School administration notified
 - Public Health notified

Tracing

Each site will designate a COVID-19 communications team (e.g., Principal/School Nurse/Secretary), to act as the point of contact for all COVID-19 concerns. These individuals' responsibilities include:

- Managing and supporting contact tracing
- Notifying exposed persons
- Communicating with, and submitting lists of exposed students and staff to Public Health
- Entering absentee information and exposed students/staff into Stanislaus County Health Services Agency, Public Health StanTrack system

More information can be found in the MCS Safe Schools Reopening Plan for Elementary Education on pages 28-29.

Get Help

Call for Medical Help if you or your child get more sick or have any questions!

Call 911 if you or your child have:

- Trouble breathing
- Pain or pressure in your chest
- Trouble waking up
- Blue lips or face
- Or any symptom that worries you

Tell the person who answers the 911 call that you think you or your child might have COVID-19.

SPREAD FACTS, NOT GERMS

For most current COVID-19 information, visit:

stanislauscounty.com/coronavirus
covid19.ca.gov
cdc.gov/coronavirus

Stanislaus County Warmline
1-209-558-4600 available 24/7

For any additional questions, contact Stanislaus County Public Health at 209-558-7335

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

420 Chicago Avenue, Ste A, Modesto, CA 95351

Rube Beach Center
275 North Orange Street, Turlock, CA 95362

Register at: (888) 654-1123

Sign-up at: projectbaseline.com/study/covid-19/

(Testing available for ages 2 and over)

Salido Library
4855 Sak Rd, Salido, CA 95268

Sign-up at: projectbaseline.com/study/covid-19/

(Testing available for ages 18 and over)

Call for Medical Help if you or your child get more sick or have questions.

STAY HOME STAY SAFE In Quarantine

COVID-19 spreads from person-to-person through respiratory droplets produced when a person coughs, sneezes, laughs, or talks. COVID-19 can also be spread by people who do not have symptoms.

14

Call 911 if you or your child have:

- Trouble breathing
- Pain or pressure in your chest
- Trouble waking up
- Blue lips or face
- Or any symptom that worries you

Tell the person who answers the 911 call that you think you or your child might have COVID-19.

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Call for Medical Help if you or your child get more sick or have questions.

How To Stay Healthy

Wash your hands often with soap and water OR hand sanitizer. Wash your hands before you touch your eyes, nose or mouth.

Wear a mask when you leave your home.

Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue and throw away the tissue.

Stay 6 feet away from everyone.

Call or your child's health care provider if sick.

Do stay away from people who are 65 years and older or have health problems.

Don't have visitors.

Don't share personal items such as dishes, towels, and bedding.

Spread Facts, Not Germs

For most current COVID-19 information, visit:

stanislauscounty.com/coronavirus
covid19.ca.gov
cdc.gov/coronavirus

Stanislaus County Warmline
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For any additional questions, contact Stanislaus County Public Health at 209-558-7335

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Call for Medical Help if you or your child get more sick or have questions.

STAY HOME STAY HEALTHY While Sick

COVID-19 spreads from person-to-person through respiratory droplets produced when a person coughs, sneezes, laughs, or talks. COVID-19 can also be spread by people who do not have symptoms.

Call 911 if you or your child have:

- Trouble breathing
- Pain or pressure in your chest
- Trouble waking up
- Blue lips or face
- Or any symptom that worries you

Tell the person who answers the 911 call that you think you or your child might have COVID-19.

Modesto, CA 95301

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Register at: (888) 654-1123

Sign-up at: projectbaseline.com/study/covid-19/

(Testing available for ages 2 and over)

Salido Library
4855 Sak Rd, Salido, CA 95268

Sign-up at: projectbaseline.com/study/covid-19/

(Testing available for ages 18 and over)

Call for Medical Help if you or your child get more sick or have questions.

Your Child Can Return to School

If your child has a negative COVID-19 test, return to school after 5 days of improved symptoms and fever free for 24 hours (below 100°F) - We will need a copy of the lab result before the child can return.

OR

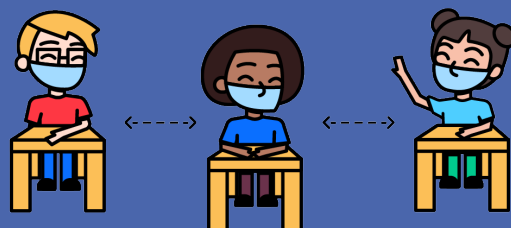
If your doctor confirms that it wasn't COVID-19, your child may return to school when they are fever free for 24 hours - We will need to see a doctors note.

OR

If your child has a positive COVID-19 test, your child must stay home for 10 days away from others. The child may return to school after 10 days and 5 days of improved symptoms and fever free for 24 hours (below 100°F) - Call the school to report these changes.

If you are not able to follow up with your child's doctor or get a COVID-19 test for your child, your child will be required to stay home for 10 days and be fever free for 24 hours before returning.

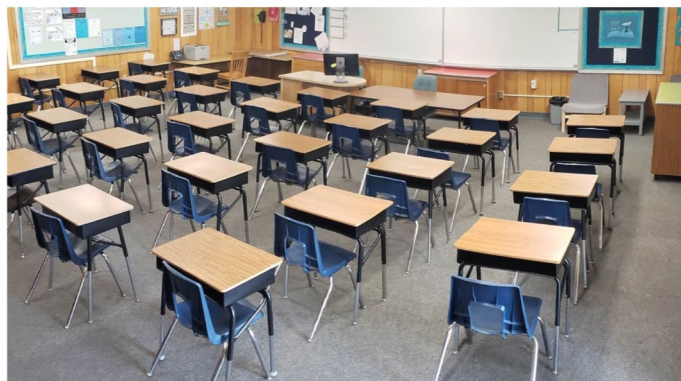
8. PHYSICAL DISTANCING



How space and routines will be arranged to allow for physical distancing of students and staff.

- All sites have instituted procedures to minimize mixing, implemented 6-feet physical distancing (when practicable), and maximized space and physical barriers in the following settings:
 - During staff and student arrival
 - Before instruction begins
 - Altered classroom layouts to emphasize 6-feet physical distancing or maximum space/barriers between students (when practicable)
 - Altered office, reception area, and all other common space layouts for 6-feet physical distancing (when practicable), including installing plexiglass barriers in all office reception areas
 - During meal service
 - During recess
 - While students and staff leaving campus
- All schools have posted signage reminding students and staff about physical distancing in prominent locations throughout each school campus:
 - “Stand here” markers where students or staff are required to assemble or wait in line
 - “One way” markers to establish single direction flow in hallways
 - Signs in meeting rooms limiting the capacity and layout for 6-feet physical distancing or maximum space/barriers between individuals (when practicable)
 - At restrooms to:
 - Limit entry to students from specific classrooms nearby
 - Limit the number of students using it at one time
 - Indicate where to wait in line

More information can be found in the *MCS Safe Schools Reopening Plan for Elementary Education* on pages 8-16.



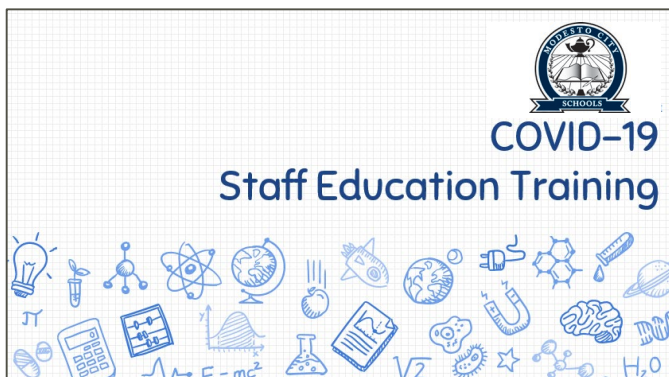
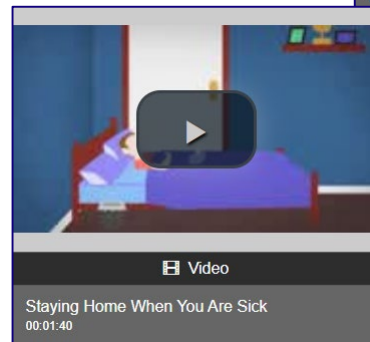
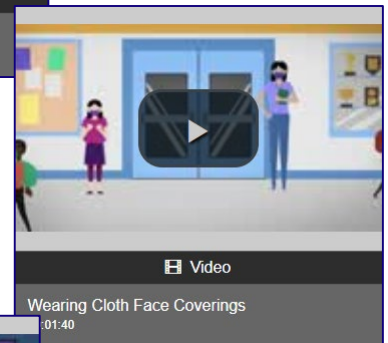
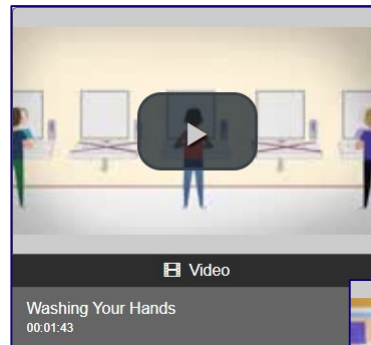
9. STAFF TRAINING AND FAMILY EDUCATION



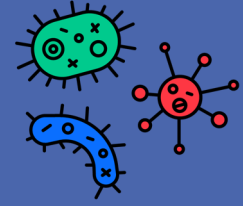
How staff will be trained, and families will be educated, on the application and enforcement of the plan.

- District and school administration will support staff, student, parent and community understanding of the reopening plan via:
 - Virtual Forums/Webinars
 - School newsletters
 - MCS District & School websites
 - MCS District & School social media
 - Health and Safety Protocol Lessons/Videos
- Staff and parents will be trained on health and safety protocols prior to reopening focusing on all elements of this plan, especially:
 - Enhanced [hygiene](#) and [sanitation](#) practices
 - Physical distancing guidelines and the requirements for [face coverings](#)
 - Screening practices
 - [COVID-19 symptom identification](#)
- Teachers will provide students lessons/ongoing reminders about health and safety protocols utilizing *Education Resources: COVID-19 Safety and Prevention* videos/posters.

More information can be found in the *MCS Safe Schools Reopening Plan for Elementary Education* on page 21.



10. TESTING OF STUDENTS AND STAFF



How school officials will ensure that students and staff who have symptoms of COVID-19 or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 will be rapidly tested and what instructions they will be given while waiting for test results. Describe how staff will be tested periodically to detect asymptomatic infections.

MCS will participate in routine, surveillance staff testing under the county-wide testing initiative being coordinated by the Stanislaus County Office of Education following guidelines by the California Department of Public Health and Stanislaus County Health Services Agency, Public Health.

Staff COVID-19 testing and facilitation of appointments will be coordinated by the Associate Superintendent of Human Resources.

Testing for Students

- Students who have symptoms of COVID-19, or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 will be advised to be tested, even if the student is asymptomatic.
 - Student will be sent home if not already quarantined
 - Student will be directed to undergo testing through:
 - Their healthcare provider, or
 - Free COVID-19 testing sites in Stanislaus County
 - Student will be instructed to isolate for 14 days after symptom onset OR 7 days after resolution of symptoms, whichever is longer. (If never symptomatic, isolate for 14 days after a positive test.)
 - School-based close contacts (students and staff) will be identified and instructed to test and quarantine for 14 days...
 - In stable elementary classroom cohorts: entire cohort
 - In other settings: use seating chart, consult with teacher/staff
 - Public Health will be notified.

Testing for Staff

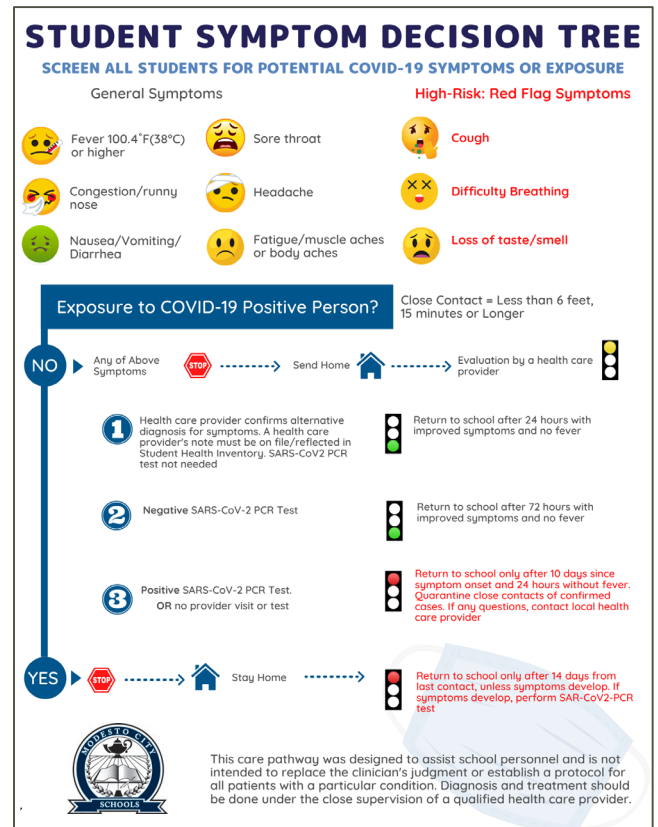
- The Associate Superintendent of Human Resources and designated staff will oversee employees' removal from work during periods of quarantine for confirmed or suspected cases of COVID-19 as well as return to work stipulations.
- Staff members who have symptoms of COVID-19, or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 will be advised to be tested, even if the individual is asymptomatic.
 - Staff member will be sent home if not already quarantined
 - Individual will be directed to undergo testing through:
 - Their healthcare provider, or
 - Free COVID-19 testing sites in Stanislaus County
 - Staff member will be instructed to isolate for 14 days after symptom onset OR 7 days after resolution of symptoms, whichever is longer. (If never symptomatic, isolate for 14 days after a positive test.)
 - School-based close contacts (students and staff) will be identified and instructed to test and quarantine for 14 days...
 - In stable elementary classroom cohorts: entire cohort
 - In other settings: use seating chart, consult with teacher/staff
 - Public Health will be notified.

10. TESTING OF STUDENTS AND STAFF (CONT.)

How school officials will ensure that students and staff who have symptoms of COVID-19 or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 will be rapidly tested and what instructions they will be given while waiting for test results. Describe how staff will be tested periodically to detect asymptomatic infections.

- Utilize StanTrack system to monitor student absenteeism in order to gauge possible unreported/unconfirmed COVID-19 cases or other communicable diseases.
- School nurses/health techs will monitor students for symptoms of COVID-19 and utilize *MCS Student Symptom Decision Tree* to guide response including tracking when student sent home and expected date of return without a doctor's note.
- School administrators/school nurses in coordination with Human Resources will be responsible for responding to COVID-19 concerns. Site liaisons will be trained to coordinate the documentation and tracking of possible exposure, in order to notify local health officials, staff and families in a prompt and responsible manner.

More information can be found in the *MCS Safe Schools Reopening Plan for Elementary Education* on page 27.



II. TRIGGERS FOR SWITCHING TO DISTANCE LEARNING

The criteria the Superintendent will use to determine when to physically close the school and prohibit in-person instruction.



- In consultation with Stanislaus County Health Services Agency, Public Health, MCS will follow CDPH School Reopening Guidance on triggers to close classrooms, the school and the district to in-person learning and transition to distance learning.

CDPH Guidance:

- If one or more COVID-19 cases at the school site, after consultation with Public Health:
 - Students and staff in any affected cohort will switch to distance learning for 14 days
 - School leadership will communicate directly with affected students and staff
 - Possible shut down of entire school if multiple cohorts are affected, with school administration communicating with school community through SchoolMessenger/Schoology mass notification prior to any closings, and with any updates prior to reopening
- If there are COVID-19 cases at multiple school sites in the district, then continuation of measures from above, plus:
 - District leadership may possibly close multiple school sites, or entire district as determined by community health needs
 - District leadership will communicate with MCS community through SchoolMessenger/Schoology mass notification, prior to any closings, and with any updates prior to reopening.

When to Close a Class

With public health, consider closing if one or more students or staff members is confirmed to have COVID-19

When to Close a School

With public health, consider closing if multiple "cohorts" or classes have confirmed cases OR 5% of all students/staff have confirmed cases

When to Close the District

25% or more of schools in a district have closed due to COVID-19.

When to Re-Open

Schools may typically reopen after 14 days and the following have occurred:

- Cleaning and disinfection
- Public health investigation
- Consultation with the local public health department

Individual school closure is recommended based on the number of cases, the percentage of teacher/students/staff that are positive for COVID-19, and following consultation with the Local Health Officer. Individual school closure may be appropriate when there are multiple cases in multiple cohorts at a school of when 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 from public health investigation or other local epidemiological data.

If a student/staff member has symptoms, they should be sent home with a recommendation to be tested. The school/classroom remains open until a case is confirmed positive. If the test returns positive, refer to COVID-19 Notification Process flowchart for next steps. If the student/staff member is tested and the results are negative, the student/staff members can return to work 3 days after symptoms resolve.

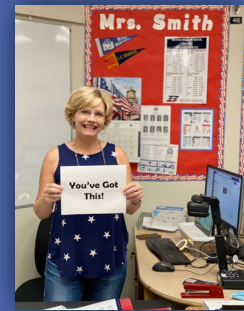
WHEN TO CLOSE CLASS/SCHOOL/DISTRICT

Guidance from the CA Department of Public Health
[cdph.ca.gov](https://www.cdph.ca.gov)

More information can be found in the *MCS Safe Schools Reopening Plan for Elementary Education* on page 33-34.

12. COMMUNICATION PLANS


How the Superintendent will communicate with students, staff, and parents about cases and exposures at the school, consistent with privacy requirements such as FERPA and HIPAA. Please specifically refer to 34 CFR § 99.3



- MCS site and district administration will communicate with students, staff, and parents about cases and exposures at the school, consistent with privacy requirements such as FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act) and HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act), by:

- Documenting/tracking incidents of possible exposure and notify local health officials, staff and, families immediately of any positive case of COVID-19 while maintaining confidentiality, as required under FERPA and state law related to the privacy of educational records.
- Communicating with the parent/caregiver if a student is exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19, referring to the student's health inventory and/or emergency card to identify if the student has a history of allergies, migraines, etc.
- Notifying local health officials, staff, and all families immediately of any positive case of COVID-19 while maintaining confidentiality as required by state and federal laws.
- Instructing sick staff members and students not to return until they have met CDC criteria to discontinue home isolation, including 3 days with no fever, symptoms have improved and 10 days since symptoms first appeared.
- Communication will be provided in families' home/preferred language as necessary.

More information can be found in the *MCS Safe Schools Reopening Plan for Elementary Education* on pages 31-32.

 COVID-19 Potential Response Scenarios in a School Setting Measures to Take When a Student or Staff Member has Symptoms, is a Contact of Someone Infected, or is Diagnosed with COVID-19		
1 Scenario A student or staff member exhibits COVID-19 symptoms (e.g., fever, cough, loss of taste or smell, difficulty breathing) or answers yes to a health screening question.	Action <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report information to administrator Consult with school nurse Send student/staff home Recommend testing (if positive, see #3; if negative, see #4) School/Classroom OPEN 	Communication No action needed
2 Scenario A household member or someone in "close contact" with a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19.	Action <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report information to administrator Consult with school nurse Send student/staff home Quarantine for 14 days from last exposure Recommend testing (but will not shorten 14-day quarantine) School/Classroom OPEN 	Communication Consider school community notification of a known contact. To: Student Families & Staff Template Letter: Household Member or Contact with COVID-19 Positive Case
3 Scenario A student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19.	Action <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report information to administrator Consult with school nurse Student/staff sent home if not already quarantined Notify Stanislaus County Health Services Agency, Public Health Identify contacts, quarantine, and exclude exposed contacts (likely entire cohort) for 14 days after the last date the case was present at school while infectious Recommend testing of contacts, prioritize symptomatic contacts (but will not shorten 14-day quarantine) Disinfection and cleaning of classroom/campus School OPEN/Classroom CLOSED for 14 days from last exposure 	Communication To: Student Families & Staff Phone Notification & Template Letter: Confirmed COVID-19 Positive Case in Cohort
4 Scenario A student or staff member tests negative for COVID-19 after symptoms.	Action <ul style="list-style-type: none"> May return to school 3 days after symptoms resolve School/Classroom OPEN 	Communication Consider school community notification to families and staff if prior awareness of testing Template Letter: Negative Test Cohort Member
5 Scenario A student or staff member tests negative after confirmed contact with a COVID-19 positive case.	Action <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 14-day quarantine required for close contact with COVID-19 positive case School/Classroom OPEN 	Communication No action needed

*A contact is defined as a person who is <6 feet from a case for >15 minutes. In some school situations, it may be difficult to determine whether individuals have met this criterion and an entire cohort, classroom, or other group may need to be considered exposed, particularly if people have spent time together indoors.