

Frequently Asked Questions November 20, 2020

In anticipation of our eventual return to campus second semester, Fresno Unified and Fresno Teachers Association have been working together to finalize plans for when Fresno County achieves orange tier status, and we can safely bring students and staff back to in-person instruction. The District and FTA hosted two town hall meetings the week of November 16 to provide details around our timeline for returning, school schedules, safety and health protocols and more. Here are a few frequently asked questions that came from those virtual events. To learn more about Fresno Unified's plan please review our Strategic Plan for Reopening found on Fresnounified.org.

When will Fresno Unified bring students and staff back to campus for in-person instruction?

Students and staff will physically return to campus when Fresno County reaches the orange tier. Focused on safety, stability and access to high quality instruction, Fresno Unified does not plan on bringing students and staff back to campus for in-person instruction until that time.

What safety procedures will be in place?

When that occurs, all state and county safety protocols are required, including PPE use, self-health screening, and physical distancing of six feet. Given that there is no scenario under which we can provide six feet of physical distance for ALL our students, our return to school, even in the orange tier, will be in phases, starting with our youngest students.

How will students be phased in?

Using our phased in approach, after two weeks of orange numbers, the following Monday 50% of students in TK-1 could return and secondary sites could begin phasing in 25% of their enrollment. Two weeks after that, 50% of students in grades 2-3 could return with secondary continuing to phase in up to 25% of their enrollment. Two weeks after that, 50% of students in grades 4-6 could return with a max of no more than 25% of students returning at the secondary level.

How will middle school and high school students be phased in?

Our intention is to keep students with their teacher. Based on physical distancing requirements of six feet, secondary sites can only accommodate up to 25% of their student enrollment. Secondary students that return to in-person instruction will be identified based on a

Careful review of student performance and attendance data from the period of distance learning. Students in special education programs, homeless and foster youth, English Language learners, and students who have struggled with internet connectivity at home will remain high priority groups for in-person return.

What will school schedules look like second semester if Fresno is in the purple/red tier?

When students return on January 12, there will be a shift to daily student schedules. To provide more instructional time for kids, additional instructional minutes are being added to the week. Teachers will also have added planning time.

What will school schedules look like in second semester if Fresno is in the orange/yellow tier?

We anticipate adding additional instructional minutes when we reach the orange tier and students and teachers return to in-person instruction. Schedules for second semester are available on the district website for elementary and middle/high schools.

What professional learning will be provided to staff around returning to campus in the orange tier?

Site leaders will provide professional development to teachers on January 11, 2021. This day will resemble a traditional buyback day to review schedules, timelines and health/safety protocols. Students will have the day off.

Will families be given a choice of sending their student to campus or staying with distance learning?

Parents will have a choice to keep their student home. Based on required safety practices (wearing a mask, physical distancing of six feet, etc.) elementary parents will have the choice of in-person instruction with their teacher on campus or remaining in the eLearn at My School model. An elementary parent survey is available from November 20 – December 3 at Fresnounfied.org for families to communicate their plans for returning or remaining in distance learning. Based on safety guidelines at the secondary level, only 25% of the student population will return to campus, based on a grouping of criteria.

Will students be required to wear masks when they return to campus?

Yes. Based on state and local health guidance, masks are required both inside and outside for students, staff and essential visitors for ages 2 years old and older. Fresno Unified is supplying five masks to each student and district staff member.

What additional personal protective equipment (PPE) is being provided to employees?

All staff have or will receive five Fresno Unified cloth masks. Additional PPE is provided to health services staff, special education, early learning and athletic trainers. Classroom and office kits have been created to include hand sanitizer, wipes, first aid kit and gloves.

With physical distancing requirements of six feet, how many students can be in class?

Class sizes will be reduced when we are able to safely return some students to campus for in-person instruction. Based on physical distancing requirements of six feet, an average of 10 students will be in a classroom.

How will teachers provide instruction with some students physically in class and others continuing with distance learning?

Technology provides Fresno Unified teachers the ability to simultaneously teach students both on campus and those who remain at home. This method provides more instructional time for students and ensures students receive the same high-quality instruction whether in-person or remote. It also allows more students to stay with their teacher.

How will transportation be provided for students?

Transportation routes are being developed, but we know riders will be required to wear masks and physical distance on the bus and at the bus stop. Buses will operate at 2/3 capacity.

How will meals be served?

Breakfast and lunch meal distribution will continue on a grab and go basis at designated sites. Students returning to campus for in-person instruction will receive their meals on campus during scheduled meal periods.

What type of health screening will be in place for students and staff?

Since last spring, Fresno Unified staff have been conducting a self-health screening at home prior to leaving for work. That same screening tool will be in place for students. If an employee,

student or essential visitor answers “yes” to any of the self-health screening questions, they should stay home and notify their school site or department. You can find more detailed information on health and safety protocols by viewing this [video](#), our [self-health screening tool](#) or in our newest version of the [Strategic Plan for Reopening Schools](#).

What if a student or staff member shows COVID symptoms at school? What happens then?

COVID symptoms may include high fever and chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, congestion or runny nose, fatigue, repeated shaking/tremors, muscle pains or body aches, headache, sore throat, new loss of smell or taste, nausea, vomiting or diarrhea. While some of these symptoms can also indicate the common cold or flu, students and or staff showcasing any of these symptoms will be sent home. Students will be sent to an isolation room until they have been picked up by parents. Staff/students will have to isolate for at least 10 days or until they have received a negative COVID test, symptoms are resolved and they have gone 24 hours without a fever and without fever reducing medication. Household family members will also need to quarantine for a minimum of 14 days.

What if there is a positive outbreak at school? How will parents and staff be notified?

As we have seen during our small student cohorts, if a student or staff member is having symptoms on campus, they will be immediately sent home. However, this is no indication of a positive case. Should a student or staff confirm positive, close contacts (those who were within six feet, without a mask for more than 15 minutes) will be notified and instructed to self-quarantine for a minimum of 14 days. To ensure an individual’s health privacy in this above scenario, close contacts are the only ones notified. Should two individuals in a class or three individuals at a school confirm positive within 14 days, Fresno Unified will work with the Fresno County Department of Public Health to message to families and determine potential returns to distance learning for all.

How will parents/staff be notified if someone at our school/work is confirmed COVID positive?

When an individual is confirmed positive, only close contacts (within six feet, without a mask for more than 15 minutes) are notified. Two confirmed cases in a classroom within 14 days triggers class notification and potential return to 100% distance learning. Three confirmed cases in a school site within 14 days triggers school notification and potential return to 100% distance learning.

If a student/staff member has been around someone with COVID-19, would they be required to test before coming to school, even with no symptoms?

No. If they are determined a close contact, requirements dictate they quarantine for a minimum of 14 days regardless of a test result. This is because an exposed person can develop COVID-19 anytime during that 14-day incubation period. Should families want to have their child tested, they should contact their healthcare provider or contact one of the county's many testing sites.

Fresno County recommends testing staff for in-person instruction every two weeks. Is there a plan in place for testing staff on a regular basis?

While guidance may change, at current we anticipate 10% of district staff will be randomly tested for COVID-19.