Plan for Reopening Waiver Application 2020-2021

Doing our part to help students, families, staff and our community move forward together

Application Submission Date: September 25, 2020

Fresno Unified School District
2309 Tulare St., Fresno, CA 93721 • (559) 457-3000 • fresnounified.org
Before School Reopening

In accordance with the California Department of Public Health and Fresno County Department of Public Health, Fresno Unified is seeking a waiver to reopen elementary schools (transitional kindergarten – grade 6), following specific state and local safety and health guidelines. The following outlines our plan in conjunction with our waiver reopening application.

Fresno Unified plans to engage parents, teachers and staff and share district safety plans in multiple languages. Stakeholders will learn what to expect in the event there is a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19, including should there be a facility outbreak.

- Press conference
- Virtual town hall meeting
- Recorded school messenger to parents
- Flyers distribution through Peachjar
- Website
- Email
- Television and radio public service announcements
- Virtual staff meetings

Our Plan for Cleaning and Disinfection

**Products**

- EPA approved disinfectants available in warehouse for use by custodians

**Do our part**

- Staff should clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces at school and on school buses at least daily
- Ensure safe and correct use and storage

**Shared Items**

- Limit use of shared items, such as electronic devices, supplies, etc.
- Shared items including desks should be disinfected after each day

**Foggers**

- Used by custodians following standard operating procedures

**Routine Cleaning**

- Routine, daily cleaning will be done by site custodian
- Pre-trip/post-trip cleaning of buses
- Standard operating procedures followed including any need for PPE

**On Demand**

- Areas that need additional disinfection due to COVID-19 exposure will be coordinated by COVID-19 Action Team (CAT), Communications and Maintenance/Operations leadership
Operations

Reopening schools is essential to ensure students get back on track academically, receive social emotional supports and reengage in the co-curricular activities they have missed due to school closures. During the ongoing pandemic, students, parents, staff and the community all play a role in reopening schools and keeping them open.

As we prepare to welcome students and staff back to school safely, several shifts will take place to daily operations. Visitors: To ensure safety practices and reduce exposure, the number of non-essential visitors to our campuses and district offices will be reduced. Advance appointments are strongly encouraged to ensure physical distancing. All visitors need to follow the self-health screening tool prior to arrival. If an individual answers yes to any of the screening questions, they should stay home and NOT visit a Fresno Unified campus or building.

Guiding Principles for Reopening

Outside of assigned staff and enrolled students, essential visitors include:

- Student teachers/designated interns (except health office)
- Substitute teachers/staff
- First responders
- Contracted/paid service providers

If parents need to pick up a student who is sick or for an off-campus appointment, parents should physically distance and not enter past the school office.

The District anticipates a phased in approach for allowing other visitor groups not listed above, including mentoring groups, parent coffee hours, Fresno Unified student volunteers/mentors, civic groups and back to school/parent nights.

Going to School/Work

Students, staff and essential visitors are asked to conduct a self-health screening daily before leaving home and departing for school or work. If student/employee/essential visitor answers “yes” to any of the listed health screening questions, the individual should stay home and not go to school/ work.

Practice proper hand hygiene when leaving home, arriving at school/work and throughout the day.

Buses will be disinfected pre and post trip. Students are asked to honor physical distancing at bus stops, space out on buses, and wear a required face mask.

- To reduce transportation demand, we encourage parents who can to transport their student or consider walking them to school.
- Fresno Unified is working with its partners at First Student Transportation to ensure the needs of our students with disabilities are safely met.

Inside School/Work

Based on state guidelines, students, staff and essential visitors are required to wear masks throughout the day while on campus and in district facilities.

Based on student populations and layouts, sites may alter class and meal periods, including recess and passing times, to reinforce physical distancing, providing time for additional hand hygiene, cleaning and disinfecting. Sites will communicate this directly to its school community.

Classroom floor plans will be altered to maximize distancing between students during face-to-face instruction, including students facing the same direction rather than students facing each other. Classrooms will reflect six feet physical distancing between students.

Practicing proper hand hygiene throughout the day is encouraged, including when entering and exiting class, libraries and cafeterias, and after recess and physical education. Sites will identify ways to reduce sharing of toys, materials and equipment. Many classrooms have sinks that will serve as hand washing stations. Where sinks are not as accessible, hand sanitizer, bathrooms and portable hand washing stations should be used.

Recess and physical education are expected to continue with modifications to reinforce physical distancing to the maximum extent possible. Frequent hand hygiene practices should be followed while also keeping students in like groups in the event contact tracing becomes necessary. PE teachers are focusing on activities that reduce high touch equipment

- Equipment that is used will be cleaned prior to and after play
- Reinforcing hand hygiene before and after activity
- Equipment can be kept with the same class for daily use
Masks are required for anyone above 2 years old entering a district facility (indoor or outdoor), including school campus, district office or construction area. Masks will be provided to students and employees.

Focused on safety measures, schools and district offices have evaluated entry and exit pathways and made changes to arrival and departure areas based on previous site conditions and procedures. Sites will communicate changes to parents and students prior to school starting and reinforce daily as students and staff transition to new patterns.

Students, staff and essential visitors should expect new safety measures in the front offices, hallways, lunchrooms, restrooms and other parts of the school/ district offices to minimize the number of those gathering and reinforce physical distancing.

Students, staff and essential visitors are asked to practice physical distancing of six feet or the maximum distance possible. Safety practices will be reinforced in district buildings using posters, floor decals, shifts in traffic flow and daily announcements.

Much like arrival patterns, sites have evaluated their departure and dismissal practices. To reinforce physical distancing, smooth traffic flow and reduce non-essential visitors, schools may stagger dismissal times or pick up areas, based on specific needs.

Sites will communicate these changes directly to their school communities.

If a student shows symptom of COVID-19 during the school day, the student will be evaluated by the health professional, isolated if necessary and parents called to immediately pick up their student. Child will remain in a mask while in isolation. School health professional will notify parents as to the pick-up process and location. If a student/employee is suspected as having COVID-19, they should contact their health care provider for guidance before returning to school or work.
Face Coverings and Other Essential Protective Gear

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**MASKS**

Masks help stop the spread of COVID-19 to others. Face coverings will be required for everyone over the age of 2.

If individuals come onto campus without a mask, one will be provided. Face shields are available, but do not replace the use of masks.

**Donated by State**
- Disposable masks

**Purchased by District**
- Five cloth masks for every student and staff member

**Specialty Masks**
- Fresno Unified Health Staff & Credentialed School Nurses
  - N95 – medical procedures
- Special Education
  - Clear – DHH students/staff

**Exempt**
- Individuals with medical conditions can work with their supervisor, Human Resources or school nurse if they are exempt. Additional information may be requested.

Specialized areas will be provided with personal/essential protective equipment to reduce the risk for COVID-19.

PPE available through warehouse ordering for expediting supplies to staff and students include:

**Health Services Staff**
- Medical Procedures:
  - N95 Respirators – fit tested
  - KN95 face masks
  - HEPA filters
  - No-touch thermometers
- Surgical masks
- Face shields
- Gowns
- Gloves
- Plexi shields

**Special Education, Early Learning & Athletic Trainers**
- Surgical masks
- Face shields
- Gowns
- Gloves
- Plexi shields

**Plexi Physical Barriers**
- High traffic areas (library, health office, front office, office spaces, assessment centers, etc.)
- Prolonged contact within 6 feet
- Face to face interactions with public

**Classroom & Office Kits**
- Hand sanitizer, masks, wipes, first aid kit, gloves
Prior to coming onto campus, everyone will do their part and use our daily self-health screening tool. Individuals who do not clear will remain home.

Please note, symptoms DO NOT always mean COVID-19, so to reduce rumors and unnecessary concern with classmates/coworkers, we encourage parents, students and employees to keep their personal health conditions confidential until symptoms have been confirmed by medical testing and/or medical professionals.

**Daily Self Screening**

**Signs**

Signs will be posted at points of entry.

**Verification**

Teachers will verify that self-screen was completed by student/family. If not, student will be guided. Supervisors will verify that self-screen was completed by employees.

**Monitoring**

Staff who feel ill during the workday will be sent home. Students will be sent to the health office, sick room or directly sent home.

**Isolation Room**

- Families will pick up students 30-60 minutes upon receiving a call
- Students who are ill and waiting to be picked up will be sent to a sick room, monitored by health staff
- Health staff will be wearing full PPE (N95, eye shield, gloves, gown)
- Student may be asked to wash hands and wear mask
- 6 feet distancing will be maintained
- A back up room will be identified for multiple students
- Room and supplies will be disinfected between students using EPA approved disinfectants

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**COVID-19 Daily Self-Health Screening Tool**

Ask the following 3 questions every day before school/work:

1. **Do I have any of the following symptoms that are new or worsening?**
   - Fever or chills
   - Cough
   - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
   - Fatigue
   - Muscle or body aches
   - Headache
   - New loss of taste or smell
   - Sore throat
   - Congestion or runny nose
   - Nausea or vomiting
   - Diarrhea

   **Action:** If YES, **STAY HOME**

2. **Have I or anyone in my household been confirmed with COVID-19 in the last 14 days?**

   **Action:** If YES, **STAY HOME**

3. **Have I been notified that I am a close contact* with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 14 days?**

   **Action:** If YES, **STAY HOME**

   *Close Contact: someone who has spent 15 minutes or more time within 6 feet or less of the index person unmasked, starting from 48 hours before the person began feeling sick.

If a student, employee or essential visitor answers “YES” to any of the above questions, they should:

- Remain home – **DO NOT** go to school/work
- **DO** notify your child’s school/employee’s department supervisor
Healthy Hygiene Practice

Hand Hygiene

Practicing hand hygiene is a simple yet effective way to prevent COVID-19.

All students, staff, families and essential visitors will have access to soap and water.

If soap and water are not readily available, access to hand sanitizer (with more than 60% alcohol content) will be made available.

When to wash your hands
- Before, during and after preparing food
- Before eating food
- Before and after caring for someone
- After using the toilet
- After blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing
- After you have been in a public place and touched an item or surface that may be frequently touched by other people
- Before touching your eyes, nose, or mouth because that’s how germs enter our bodies

Handwashing Stations
Maintain 6 feet distancing

Hand Sanitizers
When soap and water are not readily available
Identification and Tracing of Contacts

Contact Tracing

Health Services COVID-19 Action Team (CAT) works with Human Resources, school administrators, Health Department, Health Services staff, Communications, students, staff and families to ensure that we are doing our part to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Investigation

CAT will make contact with suspected individual and will provide resources and communicate next steps to school site and individual.

Notification

School administrators, administrative support and Health Services staff will report any suspected or confirmed cases to Health Services using the confidential district form. The form can be found on the Fresno Unified staff portal and goes directly to Health Services for contact tracing to begin.

Clearance

CAT will collaborate with school site and individual to ensure that there is appropriate clearance for returning to school/work.

Notification

CAT will ensure that close contacts are notified, disinfection is coordinated for any recent positive cases.
What to do if a Student Becomes Sick or Symptomatic

Students with temperature of 100 ° Fahrenheit or higher or any COVID-19 like symptoms will be sent home. Household members may be asked to isolate also.

- We recommend that families work closely with their medical providers.
- Health Services will work with student/family for appropriate next steps and clearance.
- Student temperatures may be taken upon return.
- No-touch thermometers will be utilized at school as needed.

COVID-19 Illness and Quarantine Guidelines

Person A: Any person who has tested positive for COVID-19. Confirmed with lab result. (notify close contacts)
Person B: Any person who lives in the same household with Person A
Person C: Any person with close contact to Person A
Person D: Any person who has had exposure to Person B or C

Recovered and Released

Definitions:
- Index case person with a positive COVID test
- Isolation separation of sick people with a contagious disease from people who are not sick
- Quarantine separation and restricts the movement of people who were exposed to a contagious disease to see if they become sick
- Close Contact someone who has spent 15 minutes or more time within 6 feet or less of the index person unmasked, starting from 48 hours before the person began feeling sick

Developed with guidance from Fresno County Department of Public Health (8/14/20 – 8/8)
Physical Distancing (See also Clear Rules for Classroom Instruction)

Common Shared Spaces

LIBRARY
- Access to hand hygiene
- 6 feet distancing layout
- Open doors if possible
- Disinfect shared items between use

BREAK ROOM
- Access to hand hygiene
- Masks may be removed while eating
- 6 feet distancing

CONFERENCE ROOM
- Meetings should remain virtual
- 6 feet distancing
- Masks

HEALTH OFFICE
- Access to hand hygiene
- No visitors
- No outside restroom access
- Masks
- 6 feet distancing
- Other criteria based on school nurse direction

CAFETERIA
- Access to hand hygiene
- 6 feet distancing layout
- Open doors if possible
- Disinfect tables between use

RESTROOMS
- Access to hand hygiene
- Masks
- 6 feet distancing
- Minimize time
Staff Training and Family Education

As has been our practice during this pandemic, professional learning will be provided to staff. Information will be provided to parents through district communication channels, including phone messages, Peachjar flyers, website, television public service announcements and school site engagement. Additional outreach tools are noted on page 1.

Please note, symptoms DO NOT always mean COVID-19, so to reduce rumors and unnecessary concern with classmates/ coworkers, we encourage parents, students and employees to keep their personal health conditions confidential until symptoms have been confirmed by medical testing and/or medical professionals.

Testing

School staff are essential workers, and staff includes teachers, para-professionals, food service, custodians, bus drivers, or any other school employee who may have contact with students or other staff. School staff will be tested periodically for COVID-19, as testing capacity permits and as practicable.

Regions/Goal

- Staff will be tested on a rotation by region, by schedule
- 25% of staff every two weeks

Triggers for Switching back to Online Learning

We will review all situations when two or more positive cases in a classroom, or three or more positive cases on a school campus with FCDPH consistent with CDPH guidance.

Consider classroom or school shutdown on case by case basis in coordination with FCDPH consistent with CDPH guidance, including switching back to online learning if they deem necessary.
Communication Plan after COVID Case Occurs

Close contacts will be notified directly by Health Services while classrooms and school communities will be notified by letter and/or phone message home to as appropriate.

When are cases reported?
• Positive within 14 days
• DO NOT clear on daily self-health screening tool (stay/send home)
  • Reports COVID-19 like symptoms above their baseline
• Confirmed Close Contact (within 6 ft., >15 min., positive person unmasked) with someone who tested positive for COVID-19 within 14 days.
• Develops COVID-19 symptoms during the day

Who can submit form?
Administrators, Supervisors, Admin Support & Health Services Staff

Who do students and employees notify?
Site/supervisor

NOTIFICATIONS:
• ALL Close Contacts will be notified for CONFIRMED positive COVID-19 known exposures on campus.
• Classroom notified for two or more confirmed COVID positive cases in a classroom within 14 days.
• School Community notified for three or more confirmed COVID positive cases on the school campus within 14 days.