SHASTA COUNTY LOCAL CONTEXT

The Shasta County Office of Education, local charter schools and school districts, along with Shasta County Public Health, are fully committed to working together to prepare for the reopening of schools. All public, site-based schools in Shasta County share this common set of best practices to guide each school’s return to instruction on school sites as safely and effectively as possible, with as much normalcy as possible.

Back to School immunizations are even more important this year. Doing all we can to reduce the occurrence of other vaccine preventable diseases such as influenza will avoid confusion and unnecessary concern for COVID-19.

The principles for preventing COVID-19 addressed in this overview include student cohorting, physical distancing, limiting the mixing of students, environmental cleaning, and keeping both students and staff who are sick at home.

Each charter school and school district will need to apply the California Department of Public Health Guidance but because each of our schools is unique in its student size, facilities, staff, and resources, how exactly that might look on each campus will be different.

Special thanks to Shasta County Public Health Officer Dr. Karen Ramstrom and Analyst Janessa Hartmann from Shasta County Public Health for all their assistance and support as we consider how to prevent COVID-19 transmission as we return to schools in Shasta County.

With the release of the California Department of Public Health Guidance on June 5, 2020, Shasta County schools and districts are planning to a return to school in mid-August. Please connect with your local school district or charter school for the specifics of the plans being developed in each local area. School districts and charter schools will have plans finalized before the end of July.
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COVID-19

HOW IS COVID-19 SPREAD?

COVID-19 is spread mainly from person-to-person, via air droplets that contain the virus. For example; when a person sneezes, coughs, or talks, the virus is exhaled by the infected person and then inhaled by a nearby person. Some people do not show any signs or symptoms of being ill but can still spread the virus. The virus can also spread when a person touches objects and surfaces that have the virus on it and then touches their eyes, nose, or mouth.

HOW CAN WE PREVENT TRANSMISSION?

This virus can spread easily from person-to-person so taking necessary precautions is an important way to keep you, your family, friends, and community safe. The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus. Key prevention practices also include:

• Physical distancing to the maximum extent possible.

• Washing hands with soap and water, frequently, for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available then use hand sanitizer (at least 60% alcohol).

• Using a cloth face cover for your nose and mouth, unless under the age of 2 or anyone who has trouble breathing.

• Covering your coughs and sneezes. If you use a tissue, throw it away immediately and wash your hands.

• Cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces.

• Monitoring you and your family’s health by taking temperatures and watching for signs and symptoms of COVID-19.
People with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported – ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness.

Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. People with these symptoms may have COVID-19:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea
BEFORE COMING TO SCHOOL

SCREENING AT HOME
Families are encouraged to take temperatures daily before sending students to school. Anyone with a fever of 100.4° or higher should stay home.

Students should be screened for COVID-19 symptoms prior to coming to school. Those experiencing symptoms should not attend school.

Please contact the school if someone in your home or a close contact has been diagnosed with COVID-19. Depending on the situation, your child will likely need to stay home for 14 days.

School staff will also be asked to screen before leaving for school and to stay home if they have symptoms.

ARRIVING AT AND PICKING UP FROM SCHOOL

TRANSPORTATION
Since physical distancing cannot easily be maintained on a school bus, cloth face coverings will be required.

Buses will be cleaned and disinfected after each bus route is completed, both morning and afternoon.

Windows on school buses will be kept open as much as possible to increase air flow.

MINIMIZING CONTACT
In order to minimize contact, schools may:
Have new routes for entry and for exit (one-way flow)
Stagger arrival and drop off times and locations.

WELLNESS CHECKS - School staff are asked to conduct visual wellness checks of all students upon arrival and take students’ temperatures with a no-touch thermometer upon entering the school site for at least those who do not look well.
PRECAUTIONS THROUGHOUT THE DAY

CLEANING/DISINFECTING GUIDELINES
Schools will follow Centers for Disease Control & Prevention cleaning and disinfecting guidelines.

The guidelines include requirements for cleaning high touch points (door handles, light switches, bathroom surfaces, etc.) at the school throughout the school day.

HANDWASHING ROUTINE
Routines will be established with teachers and students to regularly wash their hands and additional handwashing stations may be available.

VENTILATION
Windows and doors will be open as much as possible to provide fresh air.

SCHOOL MEALS
Food service may provide meals to be eaten in classrooms, outside, multi-purpose room, or in a well-ventilated area that provides for social distancing.

Food service workers should be wearing gloves and face coverings.

Use of refillable water bottles is encouraged.

SIGNS OF ILLNESS WHILE AT SCHOOL
Any students or staff exhibiting symptoms should be required to immediately wear a face covering and wait in a supervised isolation area until they can be transported home or to a health care facility.

SERVICE PROVIDERS AND PROGRAM PERSONNEL
A variety of people are on a school campus to provide services and support to students and their families. Those providers will continue to provide services, but will need to sign in at the school office each day. These individuals will not come on campus if they are ill, have any symptoms of COVID-19, or a temperature of 100.4° when arriving at the school.
PRECAUTIONS THROUGHOUT THE DAY

PHYSICAL DISTANCING MEASURES

Classrooms should maximize space between student seating.

Teacher desks should be at least 6 feet away from student desks.

Use of shared objects will be limited.

School schedules will vary from school to school due to the size of facilities, the impact of student enrollment on available space, and staffing considerations. Some schools may be able to accommodate all students while others will need rotating schedules with distance learning.

Within the K-8 setting, students will stay with the same group of students as much as possible. Teachers may rotate as needed, but the goal would be to keep the same group of students together.

Modified flow of traffic within the school may occur in order to create a pathway in and out of buildings in order to minimize the mixing of students.

Schools can use non-classroom space for instruction, including regular use of outdoor space, as weather permits.

Physical barriers, such as plexiglass, may be in place in the office, cafeteria and other areas where physical distancing is not possible.

FACE COVERINGS

Cloth face coverings may be worn by students, especially when physical distancing is not possible, but they are not required. The California Office of Emergency Services is providing an initial supply of face coverings for students and staff for the start of school. All staff should wear face coverings or face shields.

PROPER USE OF FACE COVERINGS:
Wash your hands before putting on your face covering.
Put it over your nose and mouth and secure it under your chin.
Try to fit it snugly against the sides of your face. Make sure you can breathe easily.

CLEANING OF FACE COVERINGS:
Cloth face coverings should be washed after each use, either using warm water with your laundry or by hand using 4 teaspoons household bleach per quart of room temperature water.
STOP THE SPREAD OF GERMS
Help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases like COVID-19.

WASH
Wash your hands with soap and water often, and for at least 20 seconds.

COVER
Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash and wash your hands.

DO NOT TOUCH
Do not touch your eyes, nose, or mouth.

SOCIAL DISTANCE
Stay at least 6 feet (about 2 arm’s length) from other people.
Activities will be held in a large, well-ventilated area or outdoors.

All equipment will be sanitized at the end of each use; personal items and equipment should not be shared.

Equipment bags and personal items will be placed 6 feet apart.

Sports participants who must practice in groups will be limited to 10 or fewer; participants must remain with the same group and not mix with, or rotate to, other groups.

Multiple groups can practice in one large area/field as long as separate groups are able to physically distance from one another including no floating coaches or support staff.

Groups of participants will be staggered to ensure physical distancing and avoid mixing participants in high-traffic areas (e.g. pool decks, locker rooms, drop-off, and pick-up).

Use visuals (i.e. marks on the ground) and give frequent reminders for practicing physical distancing.

Physical activities that require less contact with surfaces will be encouraged.

Gatherings, events, and extracurricular activities will be limited to those that can maintain physical distancing and support proper hand hygiene.
WITHIN CLASSROOMS

STUDENTS’ SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING
Time away from school has been challenging for most students. Teachers and other staff on campus will be assisting students in making a positive adjustment back to school.

INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM
Distance learning has created differences in learning and support. Teachers and other support staff will be assessing students to determine where gaps may exist in order to help fill the gaps and accelerate learning.

TRAINING FOR STUDENTS
Teachers and other support staff will take time with students to talk about what has changed on the school campus since students left. Training will be provided in healthy hygiene practices, use of space on school campuses, keeping physically distant as much as possible, and how movement through the campus walkways may have changed.
MEDICALLY FRAGILE, SPECIAL EDUCATION AND HANDICAPPED STUDENTS

STUDENTS WITH UNDERLYING HEALTH CONDITIONS
Families are encouraged to discuss safety concerns regarding return to class with their child’s healthcare provider to determine if the student should continue with remote learning through the fall.

STUDENTS WITH MOBILITY, EMOTIONAL, BEHAVIORAL, DEVELOPMENTAL NEEDS
Classroom staff will use all appropriate prevention measures and will encourage students to do the same as able.

STUDENTS RECEIVING SPECIALIZED PHYSICAL HEALTHCARE PROCEDURES
Procedures will continue to be performed by trained staff members using appropriate precautions and protective equipment.
COVID-19 RESURGENCE AND SCHOOL PLANS

COVID-19 PROCEDURES
Communication and coordination with our families will be a critical part to reopening schools for the 2020-2021 school year.

 Procedures for potential school closures and subsequent re-openings will be based on indicators of COVID-19 transmission in schools and the community and will continue to evolve as we learn more about COVID-19. Shasta County Public Health and SCOE will provide specific guidance on this to schools and districts as the new school year approaches. Procedures to investigate COVID-19 cases at schools will include contact tracing conducted in coordination with school officials. Please be prepared in the event of a classroom or school closure.

Plans will be modified as California Department of Public Health Guidance is updated.
This plan has been developed by representatives from school districts using the California Department of Public Health Guidance issued on June 5, 2020. Plans for individual school districts and charter schools will be developed based on this State guidance, but may be revised if additional guidance is issued either at the State or County Public Health levels.