Follow-up on California's Safe Schools for All Plan: A Conversation with State Public Health Leaders

January 20, 2021

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California Collaborative
for Educational Excellence

CHHS
California Health & Human Services Agency

CDPH
California Department Of
PublicHealth

Setting the Context

Webinar Series:

- November 19, 2021
- December 10, 2021
- January 14, 2021

Today's Session:

- Follow-up with Q&A
- Continued discussion on guidance

Presenters

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State Lead, Safe Schools for All Team

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Assistant Secretary, California Health & Human Services

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Executive Director, State Board of Education

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Questions and Answers

Resources for getting questions answered

- Upcoming FAQs on Schools Guidance
- Technical Assistance Request form (top of the Schools Hub website)
- UCLA and UCSF Virtual Training Academy resources
- Upcoming webinars

Guidance & Criteria

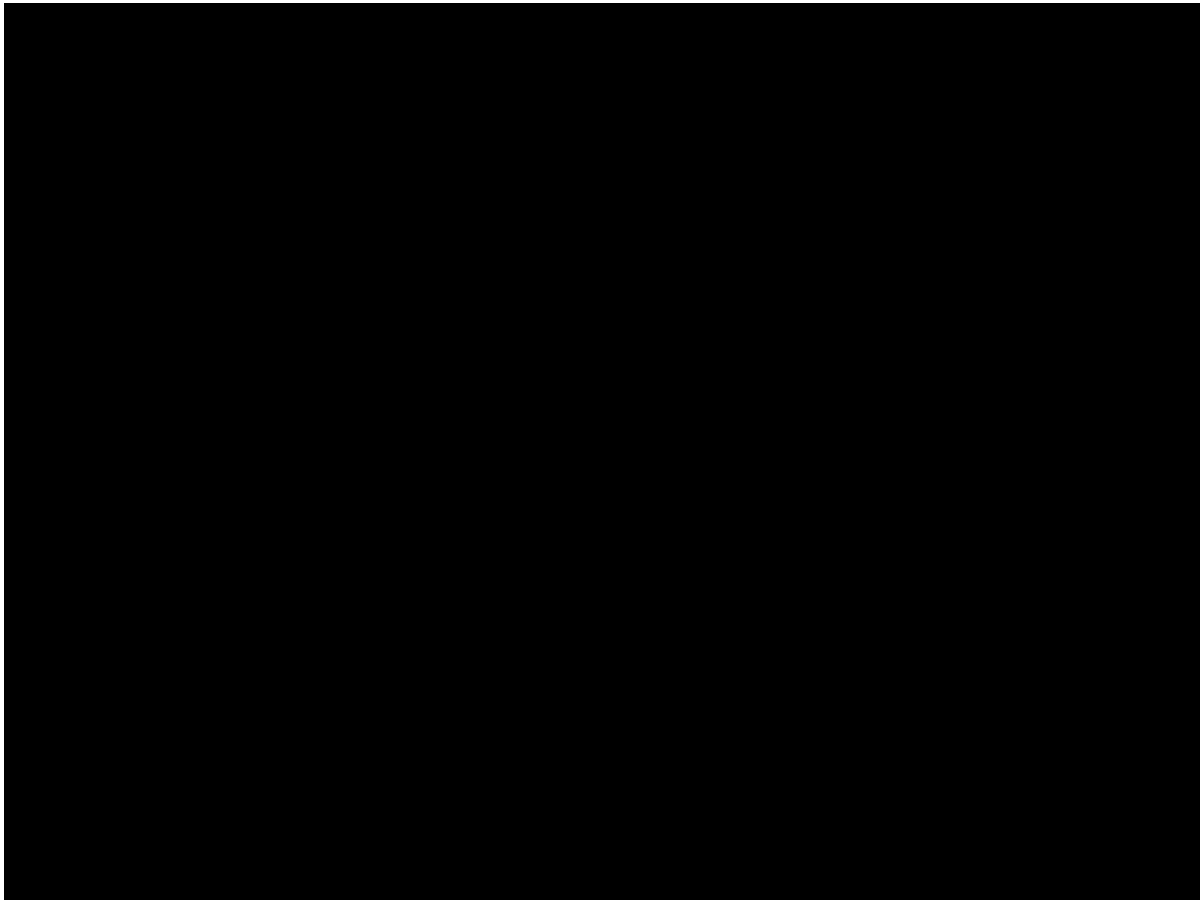
- For schools that are already open, when will the new guidelines need to be implemented by?
- Can schools that reopened with a waiver use the previously approved school reopening plan for the CSP?
- Are school districts prohibited from reopening if they are in a county with case rates above 25/100K, regardless of whether they were issued a waiver?

Guidance & Criteria

- What is the science behind allowing schools in the purple tier to remain open while prohibiting schools that have not yet opened? Is there any data that indicates that reopening (versus remaining open or further reopening) causes an increase in cases or transmission?

- If schools are not transmission vectors and generally have lower cases than the surrounding community, why aren't schools allowed to reopen if they follow guidelines to close given that case rates exceed the thresholds in a classroom/school/campus?

- Why are schools being prevented from reopening rather than closing all schools in areas with case rates greater than 25/100K?



Testing

- We were recently approved by Valencia Branch Lab to begin a testing program whereby the test kits are free to the school district and the kit processing will be billed to insurance carriers by the State, Can you provide us with assurance that the insurance carriers will not bill us back for the test processing?

- Can you clarify if the testing guidance will be a recommendation or a requirement?

- What happens if parents and staff refuse the testing cadence as outlined?

- Will you provide templates and flow-charts for contact tracing? This would be very helpful, especially for small districts.

COVID-19 Safety Plan (CSP)

- Is the CSP which must be posted by 2/1/21 any different than the school wide reopening plan that was required to be posted prior to us opening in August 2020?
- What does CSP stand for in this context: "If more than 7 business days have passed since the submission without input from the LHO, the CSP shall be deemed approved."
- Does the LHO have to approve the document by 2/1, or do LEAs have to submit the document to the LHO by 2/1?

Cohorts and Stable Groups

- Can you explain the difference between stable groups and cohorts?
- With regard to small stable groups, how much latitude do middle and high schools have?
- If we bring back 25% of our special needs students, does that fall under "cohort" for reporting our schools status starting Jan 25th and then every two weeks thereafter.
- What is the limit on number of people in a "stable group"? Can a single adult work with multiple "stable groups" of students?

Distancing

- Can you please elaborate on how the four feet of distancing between chairs in the classroom was decided upon?
- I'm I understanding that we must now have 4 feet even if we have plexi between students?
- "Will there be flexibility with social distancing between teachers and students in special education programs, specifically, with students with severe disabilities who may not be able to observe the 6 feet distancing and require 1:1 support.

Funding

- We are a K-12 school district. Will ADA be funded for our entire district or just those schools that reopen?
- Is leadership considering alternate methods of apportionment that would allow schools to maintain a remote attendance option for synchronous/asynchronous learning?
- Does the plan funding cover all students in grades 7-12? If not, which students, if any, do qualify a school serving grades 7-12?
- What is the timing of the funding distribution?
- If a district "signs up for" the grant funding and decides that they do not have the capacity to complete all of the requirements, can they decline the money at a later date?

Reporting

- Beginning January 25, 2021, every local educational agency (school district, county office of education, and charter school) and private school in California shall notify the California Department of Public Health whether it is serving students in-person. information shall be reported via a web form that will be made available by the California Department of Public Health. Where is the form located? Can it be linked under the transparency section of Safe Schools for All?

- Is the in person status reporting going through the county offices of education? Or through a direct interface with the state?

Vaccinations

- When will vaccines be available for educators?
- How will the vaccine affect reopening plans?
- How are schools getting access to the vaccine?
- Will schools be asked to provide a list of employees who want the vaccine so you know the number of vaccines we need?

Resources

Contact Tracing

- How is the state supporting schools with contact tracing
- Quarantine Guidance

Testing

- Testing Resources for Schools

Health and Safety

- California's Safe Schools for All Plan
- Cal/OSHA COVID-19 Prevention Emergency Temporary Standards
- CA COVID-19 Face Covering/Mask Guidance
- Guidance for the Use of Face Coverings
- California's Safe Schools For All Hub
- Safety Guidance
- CDPH Guidance Related to Cohorts
- Cohort FAQ for Providing Targeted, Specialized Support and Services at School
- Reminders for Using Disinfectants at Schools and Child Cares
- Asthma-Safer Cleaning and Disinfecting
- Finding EPA Registered Disinfectants Effective Against SARS-CoV-2

Accessing Local Resources

- COVID-19 Websites for Local Public Health Departments
- Directory of Local Health Departments

General

- Division of the State Architect [Design & construction oversight for schools]
- AB 685 COVID-19 Workplace Outbreak Reporting Requirements

Vaccines

- Vaccinate All 58

Ventilation

- Ventilation Guidance

Thank You

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