



TULARE COUNTY
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

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January 11, 2021

As the COVID19 pandemic evolves, Tulare County Public Health continues to monitor the State guidance so that we can continue to work collaboratively with our educational partners and provide the needed support to return to in person learning and reduce the risk of exposure and transmission of COVID-19.

On December 30th Governor Newsom announced the California's Safe Schools for All Plan which focuses on ensuring careful implementation and building confidence by supporting schools to bring back the youngest children (TK-2) and those who are most disproportionately impacted first, then phasing in other grade levels through the spring, as conditions allow. This phased-in approach recognizes that younger children are at a lower risk of contracting and transmitting COVID-19, with core safety measures in place.

While the State works on rolling out the new school plan, Tulare County has several schools who have had their waivers approved at the local level but have been in a pending status with the State. The State has allowed schools who were already in-person under the waiver to return to in person learning after the holidays however Tulare County recognizes the inequity that causes for schools who have not yet been able to return. Therefore, Tulare County Public Health is exercising local authority to allow those schools who have approved waivers at the local level to return their TK-2 students.

The Tulare County schools team has expanded to allow for more frequent check-ins and support of our schools with students and staff on campus. All schools will have an opportunity to connect with a liaison to learn about and utilize the SPOT contact tracing portal system in order to report positives and their contacts directly through an online portal for quick and efficient response.

Schools with an approved waiver and who are planning to resume in person learning while rates are elevated are encouraged to have staff and students test prior to returning. It is imperative that schools maintain ongoing surveillance of staff by adhering to the recommendation of 25% of staff testing every other week or 50% of staff testing every month.

In addition, communication efforts should be deployed to remind families not to send students to school if they are exhibiting any COVID19 symptoms or if they have been around anyone who's been sick. Also, families should be reminded of the updated travel guidance which requires a 10 day quarantine for any travel out of state or to high risk areas. Additionally, all families opting out of in person learning should be provided with distance learning options.

As the vaccine becomes more widely available, Tulare County Public Health is working with administrators to ensure that educators will have an opportunity to get vaccinated during phase1b of the vaccination roll out. *As a general reminder, when individuals receive a vaccine they will still need to participate in surveillance testing, quarantine after direct exposure, wear masks, and practice social distancing.*

We anticipate that the State will be releasing additional updates in the near future and we will provide more information when available. Attached for your reference is the updated guidance on quarantine and isolation. Thank you for your commitment to our community, we look forward to further supporting the health and wellness needs of Tulare County educators.