



**TULARE COUNTY
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY**

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To: Tulare County Schools
From: Tulare County Public Health
Date: 2-18-21
Re: School Reopening Guidance

On January 14, 2021 the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) released updated COVID-19 Reopening and In-Person instruction Framework & Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/CDPH%20Document%20Library/COVID-19/Consolidated_Schools_Guidance.pdf.

The guidance indicates that schools located in counties that are within the Purple Tier, and serving students in grades TK-6, may not reopen for in-person instruction in counties with an adjusted case rate above 25 cases per 100,000 population per day.

Current case rates have fallen below 25 per 100,000 in Tulare County therefore schools who have completed and posted their Covid-19 Safety Plans (CSP), in accordance with the updated guidance, are eligible to resume offering in-person instruction for grades TK-6. Please note that schools will have a three week implementation period to return students. If a school does not return a full grade level before March 9th and our county rates increase above 25 per 100k, the school will not be eligible to return students until the rate falls below 25 again.

Schools opting to bring back full grade levels under the CSP are no longer restricted to maintaining the 14:1 student/teacher ratio under the cohort guidance as long as social distancing requirements can be met between each student at all times which is defined as at least 6 feet away from one another, except where 6 feet of distance is not possible after a good-faith effort has been made. In the event 6' is not possible, upon request by the local health department and/or State Safe Schools Team, the superintendent should be prepared to demonstrate that good-faith effort, including an effort to consider all outdoor/indoor space options and hybrid learning models.

In order to allow for a controlled and effective return to school, it is strongly recommended that schools take a phased in approach beginning with younger grades first. Additionally, it is imperative that schools continue to follow their CSP to ensure a safe and healthy environment for students and staff.

This guidance currently only applies to TK-6 grades. As additional changes or updates occur, we will be sure to keep you informed. Thank you for your patience and flexibility, we appreciate everything you are doing to keep students, staff, and our communities safe.

Thank you

Tulare County Public Health