



**DISTRICT REOPENING
GUIDELINES**

SEPTEMBER 18, 2020

Re-Opening Overview

It is the goal of the Buckeye Union School District to reopen and remain open in a manner that adheres to State mandates and guidelines for preventing the spread of COVID19. The wellbeing of our students, employees, and families is of paramount importance as we meet the challenges of the pandemic.

The plans/protocols contained within this document have been developed in accordance with the California Department of Public Health's (CDPH) [COVID19 Industry Guidance: Schools and Schools Based Programs](#).

This plan will be updated should new guidance be provided by the California Department of Public Health in the future.

General Measures

The Buckeye Union School District has established and will continue communication with the El Dorado Public Health Department regarding disease levels and control measures in the communities of the Buckeye Union School District. We are also monitoring communications from the California State Department of Public Health and the California Department of Education. The District will continue to collaborate with the El Dorado County Office of Education and neighboring Districts regarding the operations of programs during this pandemic.

The principal of each school site has been designated to ensure implementation of the plan.

- In the event of an outbreak among students or employees, communication with the El Dorado County Public Health Department will be coordinated with the District Office.
 - This plan incorporates the [CDPH Guidance for the Use of Face Coverings](#). Requests for exemptions must be submitted to the school site principal for review and approval.
 - This plan will be reviewed and made available to all employees.
 - The plan will be amended if deficiencies are identified.
 - In the event COVID19 illness emerges, efforts will be made to determine if any work-related factors could have contributed to risk of infection and the plan will be updated as needed to prevent further cases.
 - The site will implement the recommendations of the El Dorado County Department of Public Health should the site have an outbreak. The community can anticipate that the response would be similar to that recommended by the [California Department of Public Health](#).
 - The site will identify individuals who have been in close contact (within six feet for 15 minutes or more) of an infected person and take steps to isolate COVID19 positive person(s) and close contacts.
 - Adhering to these guidelines will be essential in order to prevent illnesses that may cause classrooms or the entire school to be temporarily closed or limited.
- A. Community use of the school site facility will be limited to the El Dorado County Charter Extended Day Program and they will adhere to the measures outlined in this plan.
- B. In the event that closures of classes, groups or entire facilities when persons associated with the facility or in the community become ill with COVID19 occurs, the site will move to distance learning.
- C. District Nurses will continually review health concerns for students and create student health plans to identify and support students who may need additional accommodations or classroom and non-classroom

preparation as needed. Site health clerks will support the nurses with review of emergency cards and medical concerns that could require additional interventions and communicate concerns to the District Nurse. The District Nurse will communicate with district families regarding health concerns that may require accommodations or a new health plan from the District Nurse. Families are encouraged to contact the health office with additional medical information about their child that may not be known. Additional information from a treating physician may be beneficial to address specific concerns for a student. Groups who might be at increased risk of becoming infected or having unrecognized illness include the following:

- Individuals who have limited mobility or require prolonged and close contact with others, such as direct support providers and family members;
- Individuals who have trouble understanding information or practicing preventive measures, such as hand washing and physical distancing; and
- Individuals who may not be able to communicate symptoms of illness.
- Individuals who have a chronic illness or other underlying health concern that has been identified by a medical provider as being at greater risk.

Promote Healthy Hygiene Practices

Teach and reinforce washing hands, avoiding contact with one's eyes, nose, and mouth, and covering coughs and sneezes among students and staff.

- A. Foam sanitizer will be available in all offices, classrooms, lunch areas, and near play structures.

- B. Teachers, School Nurses, and Health Clerks shall provide developmentally appropriate instruction to students regarding the hygiene practices necessary to stem the spread of the virus.
- C. Teachers shall ensure all students wash their hands using hand sanitizer or soap and water, for 20 seconds, whenever entering and leaving the room.
- D. Students shall be taught and prompted to wash their hands using sanitizer or soap and water prior to eating, after coughing or sneezing, and before and after using the restroom.
- E. All service providers will model healthy hygiene practices for students including washing hands when entering the classroom.
- F. Cloth face coverings will be provided to all employees upon request. Non-surgical masks will be available in front offices.
- G. All students in grades 3-8 must wear a face covering. These will be available in the front office and in classrooms. Students in grades TK-2 will be strongly encouraged to wear a face covering.
- H. All employees must wear face coverings.
- I. All members of the public are required to wear a face covering when on the site.
- J. District nurses will communicate to families that it is strongly recommended that all students and staff be immunized each autumn against influenza unless contraindicated by personal medical conditions, to help:
 - Protect the school community
 - Reduce demands on health care facilities
 - Decrease illnesses that cannot be readily distinguished from COVID19 and would therefore trigger extensive measures from the school and public health authorities.

FACE COVERINGS

Face coverings must be used in accordance with [CDPH guidelines](#) unless a person is exempt as explained in the guidelines, particularly in indoor environments, on school buses, and areas where physical distancing alone is not sufficient to prevent disease transmission.

- Teachers will teach and reinforce use of face coverings, or in limited instances, face shields.
- Students and staff should be frequently reminded not to touch the face covering and to wash their hands frequently.
- Information should be provided to all staff and families in the school community on proper use, removal, and washing of cloth face coverings.
- People who are exempted from wearing a face covering will be provided the same access to the school site and classrooms as those who are wearing a face covering.

STUDENTS

Age	Face Covering Requirement
Under 2 years old	No
2 years old – 2nd grade	Strongly encouraged**
3rd grade – High School	Yes, unless exempt

**Face coverings are strongly encouraged for young children between two years old and second grade, if they can be worn properly. A face shield is an acceptable alternative for children in this cohort who cannot wear them properly.

- Persons younger than two years old, anyone who has trouble breathing, anyone who is unconscious or incapacitated, and anyone who is otherwise unable to remove the face covering without assistance are exempt from wearing a face covering.
- A cloth face covering or face shield may be removed for meals, snacks, naptime, or outdoor recreation, or when it needs to be replaced, when physically distanced. When a cloth face covering is temporarily removed, it may be placed in a clean paper bag (marked with the student’s name and date) or hung on a lanyard until it needs to be put on again.
- In order to comply with this guidance, schools must exclude students from campus if they are not exempt from wearing a face covering under CDPH guidelines and refuse to wear one provided by the school. Schools will provide a face covering to students who inadvertently fail to bring a face covering to school to prevent unnecessary exclusions. The District will offer alternative educational opportunities for students who are excluded from campus to the extent practicable.
- All staff must use face coverings in accordance with CDPH guidelines unless Cal/OSHA standards require respiratory protection.

- In limited situations where a face covering cannot be used for pedagogical or developmental reasons, (i.e. teaching phonics or to those who receive direct ELD support) a face shield, with drape, can be used instead of a cloth face covering while in the classroom as long as the wearer maintains physical distance from others. Staff must return to wearing a face covering outside of the classroom.
- Employees handling or serving food must use gloves in addition to face coverings.
- Individuals who must work in close contact (i.e. nurses, front office staff) with students who may be infected will be provided latex gloves.

ENSURE EMPLOYEE SAFETY

- Ensuring staff maintain physical distancing from each other is critical to reducing transmission between adults.
- Ensure that all staff use face coverings in accordance with CDPH guidelines and Cal/OSHA standards.
- Conduct all staff meetings, professional development training and education, and other activities involving staff with physical distancing measures in place, or virtually, where physical distancing is a challenge.
- Minimize the use of and congregation of adults in staff rooms, break rooms, and other settings.
- Employees will complete a daily symptom screener.

Intensify Cleaning, Disinfection, and Ventilation

- A. School facilities and buses will be disinfected each day using electrostatic emitters with FDA approved cleaning solutions.
- B. Desks and chairs will be disinfected between each students' use.
- C. All drinking fountains will be turned off, and students will be encouraged to bring a water bottle that can be filled at a classroom sink.
- D. Parents may supply their children with EPA approved cleaning wipes of their choice. The District is prohibited from providing cleaning wipes to students.
- E. HVAC systems will be set to maximize circulation of air from outside buildings.
- F. MERV13 air filters have been installed in all HVAC systems.
- G. Attempts will be made to limit use of shared objects/materials, when practical. Handwashing will be required prior to use of playground equipment.

Implementing Distancing Inside and Outside the Classroom

- Bus Drivers will maximize space between students and between students and the driver on school buses and open windows to the greatest extent practicable.
- Volunteers will not be permitted on sites.

- Contact at school between students, staff, families and the community will be minimized at the beginning and end of the school day. Contact between adults will be minimized at all times.
- Arrival and drop off-times and locations will be staggered as consistently as practicable as to minimize scheduling challenges for families.
- Each site will designate routes for entry and exit, using as many entrances as feasible. Protocols to limit direct contact with others as much as practicable are implemented at each site.
- Health screenings of students and staff will occur upon arrival at school.
- Buses will be equipped with extra unused face coverings on school buses for students who may have inadvertently failed to bring one.
- To reduce possibilities for infection, students must remain in the same space and in cohorts as small and consistent as practicable, including for recess and lunch. Grade level cohorts are permitted to mix during recess. Sites will keep the same students and teacher or staff with each group, to the greatest extent practicable.
- Prioritize the use and maximization of outdoor space for activities where practicable.
- Sites will minimize movement of students and teachers or staff as much as practicable. In middle schools, block schedules have been implemented to reduce students mixing across periods.
- Teacher desks are at least six feet away from student desks. Sites are implementing strategies to separate students such as, six feet between desks, where practicable, partitions between desks, markings on classroom floors to promote distancing or arranging desks in a way that minimizes face-to-face contact.
- Activities, furniture, and play spaces should be redesigned for smaller groups.
- Staff should develop instructions for maximizing spacing and ways to minimize movement in both indoor and outdoor spaces that are easy for students to understand and are developmentally appropriate.

- Instrumental band may be conducted, physically distanced, with instrument masks affixed to wind/brass instruments. Practice should be conducted outdoors to the extent practicable.
- Activities that involve singing must only take place outdoors.
- Implement procedures for turning in assignments to minimize contact.
- Clear screens have been provided in TK-3 classrooms to increase and enforce separation between staff and students.
- Sporting events, assemblies, dances, rallies, field trips, and other activities that require close contact or that would promote congregating are not permitted at this time.
- Avoid equipment sharing, and if unavoidable, clean and disinfect shared equipment between use by different people to reduce the risk of COVID19 spread.
- Activities where there is increased likelihood for transmission from contaminated exhaled droplets such as band and choir practice and performances are not permitted.

Limit Sharing

- Keep each child's belongings separated and in individually labeled storage containers, cubbies or areas. Ensure belongings are taken home each day to be cleaned.
- Ensure adequate supplies to minimize sharing of high-touch materials (art supplies, equipment, etc.) to the extent practicable or limit use of supplies and equipment to one group of children at a time and clean and disinfect between uses.
- Avoid sharing electronic devices, clothing, toys, books and other games or learning aids as much as practicable. Where sharing occurs, clean and disinfect between uses.

Train All Staff and Educate Families

Training and regular communications regarding the following topics will occur:





- Sanitation practices
- Physical distancing
- Face coverings
- Screening practices
- COVID19 symptom identification
- Proper use, removal, and washing of cloth face coverings.

Signage will be posted throughout the site to remind students, employees, and the public of the practices that will minimize the possibility of COVID19 spreading on campuses.

 **No Public Entrance Without a Face Cover.**

We Are Practicing Physical Distancing

We are implementing the mandatory physical distancing protocols, as per the El Dorado County Public Health Order.

-  Avoid entering the facility if you have a cough or fever.
-  Maintain 6 feet of distance between you and others.
-  Sneeze or cough into a cloth or tissue; if not available, use your elbow.
-  Do not shake hands or engage in any unnecessary physical contact.

Check for Signs and Symptoms

- Employees will attest daily that they do not have COVID19 or COVID19 like symptoms.
- Teachers will conduct verbal and visual wellness checks of students and see that students who do not appear well receive a temperature check by the health clerk or school nurse.
- Any confirmed or suspected cases of COVID19 will be immediately reported to the El Dorado County of Public Health. This scenario response guide has been established in partnership between the El

Dorado County Office of Education and the El Dorado County Health Department: [Click Here](#)

- The District will be offering surveillance testing to all employees every two months and on-site or community based testing will be available in the event a student or employee is exhibiting COVID-like symptoms. Testing of employees is voluntary and parent consent will be necessary in order for the District to test a student.

Plan for When a Staff Member, Child, or Visitor Becomes Sick

- Isolation rooms will be identified at each school site to separate anyone with symptoms of COVID19.
- Any individual that requires isolation shall wear a face covering as they await transport to home or to a hospital.
- Parents are required to immediately pick students up who are displaying COVID19 symptoms.
- Sites will coordinate with the District Office regarding the response to an individual with COVID19 or COVID19 like symptoms. The response protocol follows CDPH guidelines: [Click Here](#)

Considerations for Partial or Total Closure

In the event that COVID19 is confirmed on a school site, the El Dorado County Department of Public Health will be immediately contacted by the District Superintendent or a designee for guidance regarding the need for closure.

In general, decisions regarding closure will follow the [CDPH re-opening framework](#) and the guidance of the El Dorado County Public Health Officer.

In the event of a closure, teachers will be prepared to shift to providing Distance Learning that incorporates a combination of direct instruction and independent learning activities.