



County of Sacramento

August 20, 2020

Dear Sacramento County Schools, School Districts, and School Leaders,

Sacramento County Public Health (SCPH) continues to monitor COVID-19 in our community. We are still seeing concerning levels of new COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, and deaths in Sacramento County and believe it is not advisable for schools to conduct in-person instruction at this time. All schools (TK-12), both public and private, in Sacramento County must utilize a distance learning model until further notice.

SCPH will consider granting elementary school (TK-6) waivers at a future date, if epidemiological conditions support such a decision, but no sooner than mid-September. Schools serving grades 7-12 in Sacramento County will not be eligible to reopen for in-person instruction until such time Sacramento County has been removed from the California Department of Public Health [monitoring list](#) for a period of at least 14 consecutive days. It is impossible to predict when that may occur.

No students may be permitted on school campuses with the exception of where specifically indicated below.

Emergency Mental Health Counseling

Counseling services should be conducted virtually, as much as possible. If emergency in-person mental health counseling is deemed necessary, it may be conducted on an individual (1:1) basis.

Initial English Language Learner Assessments

Initial English Language Learner assessments may occur in-person on campus. They must be conducted on an individual (1:1) basis unless legally required to be conducted in a group setting, in which case they should be conducted with the smallest possible group size.

Special Education Assessments

Special education assessments may occur in-person on campus on an individual (1:1) basis as required by state and federal regulations.

For these allowable activities, physical distancing of 6 feet or greater must be maintained by all parties at all times and face coverings must be worn as much as is practicable. Schools should

also pre-screen students and staff for COVID-19 symptoms prior to appointments, stagger appointment times to prevent congregating, designate clearly marked entrances and exits, and follow other health protocols in the CDPH Guidance for Schools and School-Based Programs. For guidance on other school-related activities, see the attached FAQs.

We understand the disruption this continues to create for students, teachers, staff, and families and hope you appreciate that these restrictions are in place to limit the spread of COVID-19 in Sacramento County. Thank you for doing your part to keep our community healthy and safe.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Olivia Kasirye MD". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Olivia Kasirye, MD, MS
Public Health Officer



County of Sacramento

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for Schools August 20, 2020

Athletics – Are teams permitted to practice, train, or condition?

No in-person athletic activities are permitted at this time. This includes, but is not limited to conditioning, training, practice, games, and scrimmages.

Child Care – Can child care be offered on school campus?

Child care may be offered at school sites in compliance with [SCPH Day Care Guidance](#), which limits cohort size to a maximum of 12 children. Schools may not conduct instruction or otherwise operate their school under the guise of “day care,” “child care,” “camp,” or any other allowable activity.

Counseling – Can schools provide counseling to students?

Counseling services should be conducted virtually, as much as possible. If emergency in-person mental health counseling is deemed necessary, it may be conducted on an individual (1:1) basis.

English Language Learners – Can teachers/staff provide in-person assistance for students who are English Language Learners?

Only initial English Language Learner assessments are permitted at this time. We are awaiting additional guidance from the State.

Extra-Curricular Activities – Can teams, clubs, music groups, etc. meet or practice?

No in-person activities are permitted. This includes, but is not limited to clubs, athletic teams, academic teams, performing arts, and music. Students may not participate in internships at this time.

Gatherings/Events – Can a school host a gathering, event, field trip, etc?

Schools may not sponsor, endorse, or otherwise encourage student participation in in-person gatherings or events. This includes, but is not limited to orientations, field trips, rallies, dances, senior sunrise, senior breakfast, grad nights, and graduations. If school administrators or staff become aware of plans for student gatherings or events, they should actively discourage them.

Home Visits – Can teachers and/or staff conduct home visits with students?

School personnel may not conduct home visits at this time.

Special Needs/Special Education – Can teachers/staff provide in-person instruction for students with special needs?

Only assessments are permitted at this time. We are awaiting additional guidance from the State.

Materials Distribution – Can students/families come to campus to pick up books or other materials?

Schools needing to distribute materials such as books, computers, or other equipment to students are advised to utilize a drive-thru model. Vehicle occupants should be limited to members of the same household and all occupants should wear face coverings when interacting with staff and remain in the vehicle, if practicable. Staff must maintain physical distancing of 6 feet or greater from others as much as is practicable and face coverings must be worn.

Teachers on Campus – Can teachers teach online from their classrooms?

Teachers and school staff are permitted to work on campus. All onsite employees must abide by [CDPH Guidance for Office Workspaces](#).

Tutoring – Can students come on campus for individual tutoring?

In-person tutoring is not permitted at this time.

Waivers for Elementary Schools – When can elementary schools (TK-6) apply for/be granted a waiver? When can schools reopen for in-person instruction?

The Sacramento County elementary school waiver application will be released at a later date. Decisions about granting waivers will be based on local epidemiological data. Sacramento County Public Health will not consider granting waivers for in-person instruction until at least mid-September.

Schools serving grades 7-12 in Sacramento County will not be eligible to reopen for in-person instruction until such time Sacramento County has been removed from the California Department of Public Health [monitoring list](#) for a period of at least 14 consecutive days. It is impossible to predict when that may occur.



ORDERED CLOSURE

ORDER OF THE HEALTH OFFICER OF THE COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO TO CLOSE ALL SCHOOLS, PUBLIC AND PRIVATE IN SACRAMENTO COUNTY

Please read this Order carefully. Violations of or failure to comply with this Order is a crime punishable by fine, imprisonment, or both. Violators are also subject to civil enforcement actions including civil penalties. (Health and Safety Code Section 120275; Penal Code Section 19; Government Code Sections 25132 and 8665)

Under the authority of California Health and Safety Code Sections 101040, 101085, 120175, and 120275; Title 17 California Code of Regulations Section 2501; Article XI of the California Constitution; California Government Code Sections 8610, 8630, 8634, and 8665; and Sacramento County Code Section 2.15.100, The Health Officer of the County of Sacramento ("Health Officer") Orders:

All schools in Sacramento County (transitional kindergarten through grade 12), regardless of grade level taught or building location, shall immediately close for in-person instruction and remain closed until such time that the Health Officer declares that schools in Sacramento County may re-open for in-person instruction.

Any elementary school wishing to receive a State [waiver to open in-person instruction](#) (PDF) shall only be granted the waiver at the discretion of the Sacramento County Health Officer.

Schools may not conduct instruction or otherwise operate their school under the guise of "day care," "child care," "camp," or any other allowable activity. Students may not be permitted on school campuses or otherwise engage in in-person school activities, except as specifically noted below:

- **Emergency Mental Health Counseling** – If emergency in-person mental health counseling is deemed necessary, it may be conducted on an individual (1:1) basis.
- **Initial English Language Learner Assessments**
Initial English Language Learner assessments may occur in-person on campus. They must be conducted on an individual (1:1) basis unless legally required to be conducted in a

group setting, in which case they should be conducted with the smallest possible group size.

- **Special Education Assessments** – Special education assessments may occur in-person on campus on an individual (1:1) basis as required by state and federal regulations.

This Order is issued as a result of the worldwide pandemic of COVID-19 disease, also known as “novel coronavirus” which has infected over ten million individuals worldwide in over 200 countries and is implicated in over 700,000 worldwide deaths, including over 14,000 cases and 218 deaths in Sacramento County. These numbers increase significantly every day.

This Order is issued based on evidence of increasing transmission of COVID-19 both within the County of Sacramento and worldwide, scientific evidence regarding the most effective approach to slow transmission of communicable diseases generally and COVID-19 specifically as well as best practices as currently known and available to protect the public from the risk of spread or of exposure to COVID-19.

This Order is intended to address the strain upon the health care system from the effects of the COVID-19 virus. Similarly, this Order is intended to reduce the likelihood of exposure to COVID-19, thereby slowing the spread of COVID-19 in communities worldwide.

This Order is issued in accordance with, and incorporates by reference, the: March 4, 2020 Proclamation of a State of Emergency issued by Governor Gavin Newsom; the March 13, 2020 Declaration of a National Emergency issued by President Donald Trump; the March 5, 2020 Proclamation of Local Public Health Emergency based on an imminent and proximate threat to public health from the introduction of novel COVID-19 in Sacramento County; the March 5, 2020 Proclamation of State of Local Emergency; the March 10, 2020 Resolutions of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Sacramento ratifying the Local Emergency and Local Public Health Emergency; the guidance issued on March 11, 2020 by the California Department of Public Health regarding large gatherings of 250 people or more; Governor Gavin Newsom’s Executive order N-25-20 of March 12, 2020 preparing the State to commandeer hotels and other places or temporary residence, medical facilities, and other facilities that are suitable as places of temporary residence or medical facilities as necessary for quarantining, isolating, or treating individuals who test positive or COVID-19 or who have had a high-risk exposure and are thought to be in the incubation period; the guidance issued on March 15, 2020 by the centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the California Department of Public Health, and other public health officials through the United States and around the world recommending the cancellation of gatherings involving more than fifty (50) or more persons in a single space at the same time; Governor Newsom’s Executive Order N-33-20 giving the state the ability to increase the health care capacity in clinics, mobile health care units and adult day health care facilities and allowing local governments more flexibility to utilize the skills of retired employees in order to meet the COVID-19 surge; Governor Newsom’s Executive Order N-39-20 indented to expand the health care workforce and recruit health care professionals to address the COVID-19 surge; the California Public Health Officer’s Order issued July 17, 2020; the California Department of Public Health’s July 17, 2020 guidelines on reopening schools; and the California Department of Public

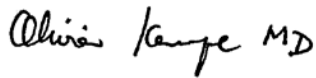
Health's Industry Guidance for Schools and School Based Programs updated on August 3, 2020. The Governor and the County Public Health Officer continue to issue COVID-19-related orders to mitigate the public health crisis.

This order is made in accordance with all applicable State and Federal laws, including but not limited to: Health and Safety Code Sections 101030, et seq.; Health and Safety Code Sections 120100, et. Seq.; and Title 17 of the California Code of Regulations Section 2501.

To the extent necessary, pursuant to Government Code Sections 26602 and 41601 and Health and Safety Code Section 101029, the Health Officer requests that the Sheriff and all Chiefs of Police in the County ensure compliance with and enforcement of this Order. Violators are also subject to civil enforcement actions including civil penalties.

Copies of this Order shall promptly be (1) made available at the Sacramento County Administration Building located at 700 H Street, Sacramento, CA 95814, First Floor; (2) posted on the Sacramento County COVID-19 website at covid19.saccounty.net, and (3) provided to any member of the public requesting a copy of this Order.

IT IS SO ORDERED:



Olivia Kasirye, MD, MS
Health Officer of the County of Sacramento

08/20/2020

Date