



SISKIYOU COUNTY

Health and Human Services Agency

Public Health Division

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Public Health Officer

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September 28, 2020

Re: Health Officer Orders for Siskiyou County Re-opening of Schools

Aaron Stutz, MD Siskiyou County Health Officer has designed these orders to be applicable to all schools in Siskiyou County (public and private) for schools with staff and students on campus. The orders are in accordance with the guidance and recommendations from the California Department of Public Health, the Regional Association of Northern California Health Officers, and the California Department of Education.

- School districts may have more restrictive requirements agreed to by their individual schoolboards.
- School districts may not have less restrictive requirements than those addressed in this document.

Symptoms:

Any student or school staff member with a temperature of 100.4 °F or greater, regardless of other symptoms will be excluded from the school site for 10 days since the onset of the fever (or other primary COVID symptoms) began and at least 3 days have passed without a fever (without the use of fever reducing medications) and respiratory symptoms (coughing, shortness of breath) have resolved. A person may be allowed to return earlier if they also meet the following criteria:

1. A negative test for COVID 19 within an appropriate timeframe
2. Their healthcare provider can provide evidence of an alternative diagnosis
3. Their healthcare provider has contacted public health and the health officer for clearance

School staff or students who are in close contact with anyone who is COVID 19 positive or has a fever of 100.4, even if not tested will be excluded from school for 14 days from their last exposure to the ill person. Persons living in the same household will be excluded from school for 14 additional days after the ill person has recovered.

Face Coverings (refer to the CDPH guidance for information on exemptions from this requirement):

- Students
 - Face coverings are required for students in grades 3-12, strongly recommended for grades TK/K-2; may be removed for eating, drinking and outside activities if at least six feet of physical distance is maintained.
- Staff
 - Face coverings are required for all staff at all times except when eating or drinking. May be removed when alone in a classroom or outside without students present.
 - Face shields that wrap around the face and extend below the wearer's chin, with a cloth drape attached to the bottom and tucked into the wearers clothing may be worn by a teacher in limited situations where the student(s) for pedagogical or development reasons to assist in communication. Six foot distancing must be maintained where possible. The wearer must return to wearing a face covering when outside of the classroom.
 - Face coverings are not required by staff when alone inside.

Students and staff exempted from wearing a face covering due to a medical condition must present a letter from a California licensed healthcare provider and will be required to wear a non-restrictive alternative, such as a face shield with a drape, as long as their condition permits it.

Physical Distancing:

- Students
 - All students must maintain three to six feet physical distance from others where reasonably possible.
- Staff
 - Staff must maintain physical distance of at least six feet from others to the extent possible.

Screening:

- Students
 - Passive screening required.
- Staff
 - Active screening preferred but passive screening program is permissible.

Student Transportation:

- Ensure at least six feet of distance between the bus driver and students when seated.
- Bus drivers and students must wear face coverings at all times while awaiting and riding on buses.
- Maximize physical distancing between students on the bus by limiting available seats as practicable and no more than 2 students per seat.
- Assign seating; if possible, assign seats by cohort. Students from same family should sit together.
- Open windows for increased circulation as weather allows.
- Stagger arrival and drop off-times and locations as consistently as practicable as to minimize scheduling challenges for families.
- Designate routes for entry and exit, using as many entrances as feasible. Put in place other protocols to limit direct contact with others as much as practicable.
- Ensure each bus is equipped with extra unused face coverings for students who do not have one.

Specialized Physical Healthcare Procedures:

- Inhalers
 - Inhalers with spacers recommended.
 - Inhalers without spacers are permitted by having the student remove the portion of the face covering over the mouth for the inhalation of the medication, and re-cover the nose and mouth for exhalation.
- Aerosol Generating Procedures (nebulizer treatment; oral, nasal, tracheal suctioning, tracheostomy care)
 - Must be performed in a separate room that allows for privacy, has good ventilation, is outside of the classroom and away from others.
 - Healthcare providers performing aerosol generating procedures are required to don full PPE (long sleeve fluid repellent gown, N95 face mask, eye shield, gloves).
 - Nebulizer treatments are discouraged, inhalers with spacers preferred.
 - Space used for aerosol generating procedures must be thoroughly cleaned between uses in accordance with CalOSHA guidelines.
- Speech and Language Therapy/Educational Testing
 - The specialist performing testing or therapy and the student, while maintain six feet physical distance, may wear a face shield that wraps around the wearer's face and extends below the chin with a cloth drape attached to the bottom of the shield. The cloth drape must be tucked into the wearer's clothing. Once the testing or therapy is complete, both the specialist and the student must put on a cloth face covering before leaving the room.

- Home visits
 - Not recommended at this time unless they can be done in an area outside.

These orders are applicable to all preschools, K-12 schools, and childcare centers, public and private, in Siskiyou County and are given with consideration of local epidemiological data and local preparedness to support a health care surge, vulnerable populations, and contact tracing and testing. These orders are a supplement to the COVID 19 Industry [Guidance for Schools and School-Based Programs release on August 3, 2020](#) and are specifically for Siskiyou County schools. [Guidance for Face Coverings from the CDPH](#).

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'A' followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Aaron Stutz MD
Siskiyou County Health Officer