



August 24, 2020

Dear Yuba County and Sutter County School District Superintendents,

The Yuba-Sutter bi-county region continues to see high levels of COVID-19 community transmission and hospitalizations. The current case counts in 14-days for both Yuba County and Sutter County are >300 new cases/100,000. Consistent with the State's directive, no in-person schooling should be considered for the Yuba-Sutter bi-county region at this time. Therefore, **no students may be permitted on school campuses with the exceptions as specified below.**

Counseling

Counseling services should be conducted virtually, as much as possible. If in-person counseling is deemed necessary, it may be conducted on an individual basis. The counselor and student must maintain physical distancing of 6 feet or greater and wear face coverings. Both the counselor and student must attest to being without symptoms concerning for COVID-19 and not a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case in the past 14 days.

Extra-Curricular Activities

No in-person activities are permitted. This includes, but is not limited to clubs, athletic teams, academic teams, performing arts, and music.

Gatherings/Events

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.

Internships

Student in-person internships are not allowed at this time.

Materials Distribution

Schools needing to distribute materials such as books, computers, or other equipment to students are advised to utilize a drive-thru model as much as possible. If in-person meeting is necessary, the meeting should be limited to no more than 15 minutes of interaction. Face coverings must be worn during the in-person meeting.

Prayer/Worship

Private schools wishing to conduct in-person prayer services may do so in compliance with CDPH guidance for worship services. Services may be conducted outdoors only and are limited to 100 or fewer people. Physical distancing of 6 feet or greater between all attendees must be maintained and face coverings must be worn.

Special Education/English Language Learners

Legally mandated assessments may continue in-person on campus during a county's placement on the county monitoring list. They must be conducted on an individual basis unless legally required to be conducted in a group setting, in which case they should be conducted with the smallest possible group size. Similarly, and under strict adherence to safety protocols, in-person instruction with students and parents as mandated by the Individualized Education Program plan (IEP) can occur on campus. Physical distancing of 6 feet or greater must be maintained and face coverings must be worn as much as is practicable.

Standardized Tests

School sites may be used to administer standardized tests such as the SAT, PSAT, or ACT. Testing sites must abide by [College Board Guidance](#) for administering the exams, which includes requirements for physical distancing and face coverings. To minimize the number of people on campus, site capacity must be capped at 25% of the room capacity at the testing site per test date to allow for adequate social distancing of at least 6 feet. Facial coverings must be worn at all times during testing time. Schools should consider offering multiple testing dates to decrease the number of students per date. Students should be encouraged to test at the site nearest their home. Travelling to test sites or accepting students from out of town should be discouraged.

Teachers on Campus

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

Tutoring

In-person tutoring is not permitted at this time.

Waivers for Elementary Schools (TK-6)

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) permits local health jurisdictions in counties on the CDPH monitoring list to consider granting waivers for in-person instruction at elementary schools (TK-6). Yuba County and Sutter County Public Health are not considering waivers at this time. We will continue to monitor local data trends and outbreaks and may consider waivers at a future date, if epidemiological conditions support such a decision.

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 the Yuba-Sutter bi-county region. Thank you for doing your part to keep our community healthy and safe.

Sincerely,

Phuong Luu, MD, MHS, FACP

Bi-County Health Officer

Yuba County and Sutter County