



Frequently Asked Questions - Parents

RETURN TO CAMPUS TIMING

Q: Why would the District bring kids back to campus now and not wait?

A: From learning loss and technology struggles to the social-emotional wellness crisis reported county-wide, many of our students are struggling with online learning. While our talented teachers are working their hardest to engage with students, many students rely on an in-person, on-campus school experience to learn. The CUSD Governing Board wants to provide parents a choice for their student to be able to return to campus as soon as it is a safe and viable option according to state and county health guidelines. COVID conditions are improving in Fresno County, businesses and restaurants are re-opening, and across the nation students are returning to schools with health and safety measures in place

Q: What is the possible timing to bring kids back to campuses?

A: At this time, schools in Fresno County are not allowed to open unless there is an approved waiver (only available for elementary grades TK-6). When Fresno County has been on Tier II (Red Level) for two weeks, all grade levels can open without a waiver. The District submitted a waiver application to the Fresno County Department of Public Health Sept. 30 for elementary students to return to some form of in-person instruction. If approved, the District would move forward with providing on-site learning for elementary students in a hybrid schedule (some in-person and some online) beginning November 3 for grades TK-6.

Additional time would be taken to process how secondary (intermediate and high school) master schedules and semester grading periods can be managed to make a transition back to campus for those choosing in-person instruction. For secondary students (grades 7-12) the District is moving toward a second semester return to on-site classes for those families choosing in-person instruction, with small group instruction and intervention for some students in November.

Under current stable cohort guidance, we are continuing to bring on campus small groups of students with special needs and general education students at high risk of learning loss.

STUDENT & STAFF HEALTH ON SITES

Q: Will all students and staff be required to wear masks?

A: Yes, face coverings will be required for all students and staff at all grade levels, as recommended by the CDC and the California Department of Public Health. Employees engaging in symptom screening will also wear face shields/safety glasses, disposable gowns, and gloves. Specialized service employees such as front office, food service and custodial staff will wear appropriate PPE (personal protective equipment) for their roles.

Q: How will the daily on-site health screening process work?

A: Each school site is developing site specific plans to conduct daily health screenings and to take temperature readings of students when they arrive at school. Staff members will be conducting self-screenings and temperature checks daily. Parents will be expected to complete a student health screening at home before school each day.

Q: What will class sizes and social distancing look like?

A: Students will be spaced six feet apart in classrooms and class sizes will be structured accordingly. Physical distancing between students will drive plans for hybrid schedules. Schools will also be looking at using every available instructional space on campus, which could include an MPR or gym.

Q: What preventative student hygiene will be in place?

A: Every classroom will have hand sanitizer supplied, and anyone entering a classroom (students/staff) will be required to use it prior to entering the room. Teachers will be provided COVID-killing surface disinfectant (approved by the EPA) to be used as needed should there be shared classroom surfaces or desks. Hand washing will be encouraged, sanitation stations will be set up, and designated walking path routes around campus will be defined. (For more on campus cleaning and disinfecting, see questions under “Campus Safety.”)

Q: If a student/staff member presents COVID symptoms while at school, what happens?

A: Anyone presenting with symptoms of illness while at school will be sent home. A student would be taken to an adult-supervised sick child room until a parent/guardian can pick them up. A person with symptoms would remain home for 10 days after showing symptoms and after they have been fever-free for 24 hours; he/she would be allowed to return sooner if they test negative on a COVID test and the symptoms have been resolved. Students in the same household would also need to quarantine or test negative before returning to campus. (For complete contact tracing protocols and quarantine guidelines, see the “COVID-19 & Quarantine Guidelines” section on the Student and Staff Health page <hyperlink>.

Q: What happens if someone who was on campus tests positive for COVID?

A: Cases would be reviewed on an individual basis and action taken accordingly. The Fresno County Department of Public Health has established an Academic Setting Medical Investigation Team that would work with us to identify and complete appropriate notification and action dependent on each unique situation. A positive case would be reported to the County and a tracing investigation would be conducted to determine the contact source and exposure risks. A positive case is handled differently if everyone is keeping 6-feet apart and wearing a mask, than if they are not. If there is a case, the school community will be made aware while keeping private the identity of the individual who tested positive. Additionally, in the event of a positive case, Clovis Unified has a trained COVID Response Team that would be called to disinfect a classroom or area.

Q: Will staff be tested regularly for COVID?

A: Fresno County is currently planning periodic testing of 10% of a school district’s staff working with students. Future schedules have not been determined. Testing will be random.

Q: How will the District ensure enforcement of all the guidance and safety protocols? Are there consequences for non-compliant for students AND staff?

A: Consistent enforcement of health and safety protocols will be expected and monitored by site administrators who are regularly responsible for enforcing school rules.

Q. What training has staff received to support health and safety protocols?

A. All employees have completed the following training through the Clovis Unified Human Resources Office:

- COVID-19 - How to Clean and Disinfect Your Schools
- COVID-19 - How to Protect Yourself and Others
- Additional trainings will be provided as needed.

INSTRUCTIONAL MODELS

Q: What will the hybrid model look like at elementary? Secondary?

A: A hybrid schedule would include a mix of on-site instruction and at home independent work.

Q: During the hybrid model's time of independent work at home, will my child continue to access class and instruction online?

A: This will be at the discretion of the school site/teacher. Some will have students working on projects and assignments during off-site learning; others may continue live instruction online or recorded lectures.

Q: How will students with special needs get mainstream time?

A: Students with special needs will continue to have mainstream opportunities, and class sizes will be structured accordingly.

Q: Will the schedule be the same as the current version of online learning?

A: Schedules are still under development, but in order to provide in-person instruction and meet health and safety guidelines, schedules will likely require modifications. Once it is known how many students will remain online and how many will return to campus, teacher assignments can be developed in more detail.

Q: Will kids get moved to different teachers?

A: It's possible. With families having an option to move between online and in-person instruction and vice versa, it is likely that some students will have to change teachers.

Q: If a student is quarantined because of possible exposure to COVID, but otherwise healthy, would they be assigned work?

A: Yes, students absent from school because of quarantining will be provided independent study work.

Q: When students can come back, will CUSD Connect still be an option or will they have to move to Edgenuity?

A: Families will have options for in-person or online instruction. All options will be considered but changes may need to be made at the secondary level based on building master schedules that balance student opportunities with available teachers.

Q: Are students who are currently committed to Edgenuity able to return to Hybrid?

A: Families will have options at the semester (intermediate and high school) and quarter (elementary) to make such a move.

Q: Can secondary (intermediate and high school) students return for hands-on classes, interventions, etc.?

A: These options are under consideration along with many other options to address the academic, social and physical needs of students. Once the District is able to bring secondary students on-campus for instruction under Fresno County COVID conditions, it is anticipated that the District will begin to do so for small, specialized programs in November, and at the start of the second semester for all students opting for in-person instruction.

Q: How will small group instruction happen?

A: Options for small group instruction are still under discussion with the Fresno County Department of Public Health.

Q: How will ASES be delivered?

A: ASES will be delivered in a model decided by individual school sites, with the earliest possible return date for ASES programs Oct. 19.

Q: Will the District still be giving perfect attendance awards?

A: Perfect attendance awards were suspended last Spring with no penalty for students in progress toward graduating with perfect K-12 attendance.

CAMPUS SAFETY & CLEANING

Q: What will campus cleaning look like?

A: Schools will be cleaned four times a day using a disinfectant known to kill COVID on surfaces. High-use surfaces around campus, including offices and restrooms, will be disinfected several times during the school day. Classrooms, restrooms and offices will be fogged with a deep disinfectant each evening. Every morning disinfecting supplies for classrooms and sanitation stations will be resupplied. During class time, teachers will disinfect desks and any shared surfaces as needed.

Q: What additional cleaning steps are taken if someone on campus tests positive for COVID?

A: Access to the area would be restricted until all CDC guidelines are followed. Steps taken would include utilizing Clovis Unified's specially trained COVID Response Team to disinfect the area and surfaces using an EPA-approved, concentrated virucidal product that kills COVID.

Q: Will adults be allowed on campus with their students? If so, are masks required?

A: Visitors, including volunteers, will not be allowed on campus except in rare circumstances. In those cases, masks are required.

Q: How will contact be limited in the cafeteria?

A: At such a time when school sites begin holding lunch on campus, grab-and-go breakfast and lunch will be available at no cost; students will also be allowed to bring their own lunch. Cafeteria staff will be wearing appropriate PPE, according to health and safety guidelines. Onsite lunch practices may include staggered lunch schedules, designated lunch areas and use of hand sanitizer for students before and after lunch. Custodial staff would clean and disinfect the cafeteria between lunch periods. (Note: Meals will continue to be distributed before school in drive-thru pick up lines at designated campuses and bus stops for all students – both online and onsite. For specific locations and times, see cusd.com/campus catering.aspx.)

Q: How will kids line up and move around campus to maintain social distancing?

A: Each school site is developing specific plans for student movement and pick-up/drop-off.

Q: When will sports fields and facilities become available for outside organizations to use?

A: Clovis Unified is following the direction of the Fresno County Department of Public Health's guidance.

Q. Why are other groups still using your campuses?

A. As some sectors of the economy have been allowed to resume, we have opened our facilities to some existing requests. However, under current conditions our facilities are not available for use by the public without an approved facility request. We have asked members of the public to respect that our fields and school sites are not to be used for large group gatherings or organized events in compliance with current public health guidelines.

PRESCHOOL & BEFORE/AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Q: How will ASES be delivered?

A: ASES will be delivered in a model decided by individual school sites, with the earliest possible return date for ASES programs Oct. 19.

Q: Will Campus Club be available during hybrid learning?

A: Campus Club will not be available to the public while schools are conducting hybrid learning schedules as sites will need to maximize the use of campus spaces to create physical distancing. Campus Club is expected to resume for the public when schools are able to return to full, normal operations.

Q: Will preschool be available for on site for face-to-face learning?

A: Preschool will open on site for face-to-face instruction when K-6 opens. Parents will choose whether to continue with virtual instruction or return to campus for on-site instruction.

CO-CURRICULAR & SPECIALTY PROGRAMS

Q: Can secondary (intermediate and high school) students participate in sports, visual & performing arts, and other co-curricular activities?

A: Yes, students who select "Hybrid" or "Online" through their comprehensive site when a return to campus is allowed, can participate in co-curriculars and athletics if they meet regular eligibility requirements. Students enrolled in Clovis Online Charter School are not eligible to participate in the comprehensive site co-curricular programs.

STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Because of the uniqueness of your student, most questions should be addressed to your student's school site. See your school's website for contact information.

Q: How will students with special needs get mainstream time?

A: Students with special needs will continue to have mainstream opportunities, and class sizes will be structured accordingly.

Q: Are instructional models for general education the same for special education programs?

A. Special education programs will follow the regular traditional model. Families should contact the Special Education Department with any request for alternate methods of instruction. Instruction for students will be developed and implemented consistent with applicable laws.

Q: How will the number of support staff in a classroom affect capacity?

A. The number of support staff will be considered in capacity of a classroom. The program administrator or director will monitor program numbers.

Q: What if I have more questions about my child's situation?

A. Please contact your student's school site (phone numbers can be found on each school's website).

MEDICAL & COUNTY INFORMATION

Q. Why is the Fresno County Department of Public Health giving its approval for schools to re-open when there are still people testing positive in Fresno County?

A. Although there are still positive cases, the numbers are lower than they have been in the past. The CDC and CDPH look at rates as indicators. When rates fall below 14 cases per day over a 7-day period, the state allowed health officers to make decision on submitted elementary waivers, which include details about the safety measures and protocols that will be in place. Once Fresno County has been in the "red" level for 2 weeks, another level of re-opening, including schools of all grade levels, is allowed.

Q. How are the numbers being calculated and reported now compared to how they were being calculated and reported in the summer?

A. The current color system reflects the spread of COVID based on test positivity rate and cases per 100,000. The previous monitoring system included those same two data points, but also included hospitalizations over a 3-day period compared to the prior 3-day period, ICU bed space, deaths and ventilators.

Q. Why does Fresno County continue to keep schools closed, even though the curve was flattened months ago and other schools around the world are opening?

A. The Fresno County Department of Public Health is part of a state system, and it must follow the guidance of the state. In some other regions where school has returned, there has been a "yo-yo" effect where cases spike and regions return to stricter restrictions. Fresno County is trying to avoid this yo-yo effect so that schools can stay open once they re-open.

Q. Are the guidelines and protocols from the Fresno County Department of Public Health aligned with those from the CDC and CDPH?

A. Yes, the guidelines and protocols are aligned. Fresno County is part of the San Joaquin Valley Public Health Consortium that includes surrounding counties that all work very closely together. Fresno County regularly questions the state to ensure it is doing what is right for everyone based on science and implementing effective health and safety measures.

Q. Do masks make a difference?

A. Since COVID is primarily spread through the respiratory track through breathing/coughing, masks are the most effective way to reduce transmission. They do not protect the wearer 100%, but they significantly reduce the risk of infection and transmitting to others. The CDC recommends masks for ages 2 years and up, and the CDPH strongly recommends for K-2 grades. Clovis Unified's return to campus will include requiring face coverings for students and staff.

Q. Why are masks required if we are all physically distanced?

A. The more precautions that are taken, the more the risk of transmission is reduced.

Q: What happens if Fresno County goes back to the purple stage?

A: According to public health officials and the state's guidelines for schools, with multiple health and safety measures in place, schools will not close if Fresno County returns to Tier I (Purple). Working in collaboration with FCDPH, Clovis Unified will follow public health official recommendations if local conditions require the temporary closure of a site. More details about these plans are available online in our Healthy Return to Campus information (cusd.com).

Q. How long does the health department foresee these health protocols being in place, especially considering the upcoming flu season?

A. The protocols will likely be in place until there is a vaccine for COVID.

Q: With flu season approaching, what measures will be taken to avoid COVID cases going up?

A: We will follow the Fresno County Department of Public Health's guidelines of screening students and staff for COVID symptoms prior to their coming on campus and conducting temperature checks. Anyone with a symptom on the screening list or fever is encouraged to stay home. Anyone presenting symptoms at school will be sent home and not return until they have had a negative COVID test or quarantined for 10 days and been fever-free for at least 24 hours.

Q: Where other schools have begun to open around the state, what are we seeing?

A: The Fresno County Department of Public Health is acquiring data. As schools begin to open in hybrid models they are showing signs of working effectively. We will continue to be updated by the county on this data and what we can learn from it.

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT (EMOTIONAL WELLNESS, TECHNOLOGY, ETC.)

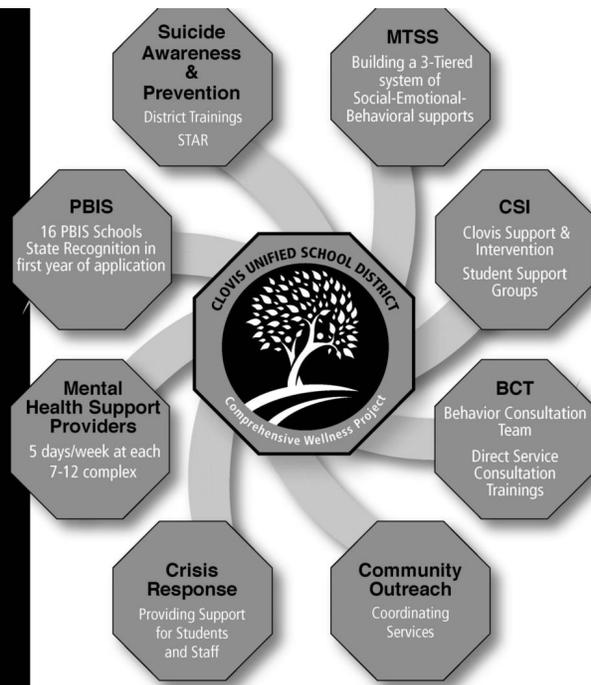
Q: How is student discipline being handled during online learning?

A: Our administrative staff and Student Resource Centers continue to handle issues that arise regarding discipline, as well as student safety and others. Students have gone through trainings to prepare and educate them on the type of behavior expected during online learning. Anonymous tip lines will continue to be available to report any concerns.

Q: My child is struggling emotionally. How can I find them help through school?

A: Please contact your school site as you usually would to coordinate referrals. Our team of professional school psychologists, school nurses, Transitions teams, and more are ready to support our students in whatever way they need. Program details can be viewed in the chart below and on the Student and Staff Health page under "Social Emotional Wellness."

Emotional Wellness for Students



Q: Will the District continue to help with technology needs?

A: Yes. Students/families needing technology support to conduct online learning, such as a device, WiFi or a hotspot, will continue to be assisted.

Q: Can families still get technology if they need it for online learning?

A: If your student has technology needs you did not anticipate, please contact your school site to coordinate access.