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San Luis Obispo County Office of Education:

2020-2021

School Reopening Plan

**Approved by County
Superintendent of
Schools on August 20,
2020**

**Approved by County
Public Health Officer on
August 31, 2020**

August 2020

2020-2021 School Reopening Plan

Executive Summary:

Having worked closely with the San Luis Obispo County Health Department concerning our unique classroom environments, the San Luis Obispo County Office of Education (SLOCOE) is confident in our current plan to reopen our schools with a priority on health and safety while maintaining effective learning environments.

In general, SLOCOE will consider resuming in person classroom instruction once San Luis Obispo County has been in the State Blueprint's Red Tier for at least 14 days.

All students and staff will wear face coverings. All classrooms will be appropriately cleaned at least daily and high touch point areas more than once per day. Students and staff will do a self-assessment at home each morning for signs and symptoms. If anyone has a temperature or exhibits any symptoms related to COVID-19, they will stay home or be sent home. Staff members as well as students will be encouraged to be seen by their medical provider for further diagnosis.

There are several health and hygiene actions that the school will also take, which includes training staff on proper use of masks, PPE, and cleaning/disinfecting. Staff will also train students on appropriate mask usage, hand washing and other hygienic measures. Classroom routines and protocols will emphasize hygienic measures whenever entering and exiting a new environment.

If any staff member, student or visitor to one our campuses becomes positive for COVID-19 we will immediately contact the Health Department and coordinate our response with them, which will include informing staff and parents/guardians and taking appropriate cleaning/disinfecting actions.

As the school year progresses, the administration will continue to have ongoing communication and meetings with the local authorities concerning coronavirus levels and control measures in our community. We will continuously evaluate our schoolwide plan and make adjustments and refinements as necessary.

The following pages breaks down our plan into detailed specific actions in support of 9 practices and protocols:

- 1) *Promote Healthy Hygiene Practices*
- 2) *Use of Face Coverings*
- 3) *Intensify Cleaning, Disinfection, and Ventilation*
- 4) *Implementing Distancing Inside and Outside the Classroom*
- 5) *Check for Signs and Symptoms*
- 6) *When to Seek Emergency Medical Attention*
- 7) *When a Staff Member, Child or Visitor Becomes Sick*
- 8) *Considerations for Partial or Total Closures*
- 9) *When a student, teacher or staff member tests positive for COVID-19 and had exposed others at the school, implement the following steps*

2020-2021 School Reopening Practices and Protocols

1) Promote Healthy Hygiene Practices:

SLOCOE will teach and reinforce among students and staff:

- Hand washing-staff will teach and model proper practice of washing their hands for 20 seconds with soap, rubbing thoroughly after application, and using paper towels (or single use cloth towels) to dry hands thoroughly before and after eating; after coughing or sneezing; after being outside; and before and after using the restroom. When hand washing is not practicable fragrance free hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol base will be available.
- Avoiding contact with one's eyes, nose, and mouth-students and staff will be frequently reminded not to touch the face covering as well as the proper use and washing of cloth face coverings.
- Covering coughs and sneezes-Staff will teach students to use a tissue to wipe their nose and to cough and sneeze inside a tissue or their elbow and then wash hands or use hand sanitizer.
- Food Service-All food service workers will wear face coverings and gloves.

2) Use of Face Coverings:

SLOCOE will supply all students and staff with proper face coverings.

- SLOCOE staff will wear proper face coverings.
- Students will be required to wear face coverings.
- Staff will teach and reinforce student use of cloth face coverings, masks, or face shields with the recognition that face coverings are essential when physical distancing is not practicable.

3) Intensify Cleaning, Disinfection, and Ventilation

- All employees will be trained to safely and properly sanitize and disinfect.
- All facilities will be cleaned and disinfected at least daily using proper ventilation and frequently touched areas in the school will be cleaned or disinfected more frequently when practicable.

- The sharing of materials will be discouraged. All students will have their own materials and chromebooks. However, when students need to share items such as art supplies, those items will be cleaned and disinfected between uses.
- Staff and students will be directed to use refillable bottles for water rather than to use drinking fountains.
- Classrooms should have proper ventilation with windows and doors open. Open doors will also reduce the high frequency of touching door handles.

4) Implementing Distancing Inside and Outside the Classroom

SLOCOE will make adjustments to its class sizes, learning environments, and instructional delivery to make every effort to deliver a safe in-person educational experience, where practicable.

- Efforts will be made to keep class sizes under 15 to ensure proper social distancing.
- Student seating in each classroom will have at least 6 feet distance where practicable.
- Student desks will be positioned at least 6 feet away from the teacher desk, and the front of the classroom from where a majority of teacher-led instruction will take place.
- Transitions and student movement outside of classes will be structured in a one-way movement.
- Restroom breaks will be organized and structured to limit numbers of students at any one time.

5) Check for Signs and Symptoms:

All students and staff will complete a self-assessment to check for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 prior to each school day and take preventative and intervention measures as necessary.

COVID-19 CDC listed symptoms include:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Chills
- Repeated shaking with chills

- Muscle or body aches
- Headaches
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Diarrhea
- New loss of taste or smell

SLOCOE will apply the above CDC listed symptoms to its systematic and routine evaluation of staff and students.

- Any staff or student who is sick, displaying COVID-19 related symptoms, or has had close contact with someone with laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 in the last 14 days are all directed to stay home.
- Staff and students will be screened daily before/as they enter the facility for COVID-19 symptoms through a self assessment of CDC released symptom check.

6) When to Seek Emergency Medical Attention

Look for emergency warning signs for COVID-19. If someone is showing any of these signs, seek emergency medical care immediately:

- Trouble breathing
- Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
- New confusion
- Inability to wake or stay awake
- Bluish lips or face

7) When a Staff Member, Child or Visitor Becomes Sick:

SLOCOE will take assertive action when anyone on campus becomes sick. We will isolate and protect others from potential spread and transport as necessary to the home environment or medical care as appropriate. SLOCOE will maintain confidentiality of any person who becomes sick and/or tests positive for COVID-19.

- Anyone who exhibits symptoms of COVID-19 will be separated to an isolation room while they wait to be transported home or to medical care.

- Those exhibiting symptoms will immediately be required to wear a mask if not already doing so.
- We will notify local health health officials, staff and all families immediately of any positive case of COVID-19 while maintaining confidentiality.
- Any areas used by a sick person will be closed off and cleaned and disinfected before reusing. Cleaning and disinfecting will be done using proper PPE and ventilation and, if possible, will wait 24 hours prior to cleaning/disinfecting.
- Staff members and students with laboratory-confirmed COVID-19, AND symptomatic staff members and students who are not tested, AND staff members and students with a negative test for COVID-19 but high degree of suspicion for COVID-19 (e.g., symptomatic and history of household contact with laboratory-confirmed COVID-19) will be directed not to return until they have met CDC criteria for release from isolation, including 24 hours with no fever without taking fever-reducing medications, symptoms have improved, and at least 10 days have passed since symptom onset or since date of positive test if asymptomatic.
- Staff members and students with a negative test for COVID-19 and low degree of suspicion for COVID-19 may return to school once symptoms have resolved and afebrile x 24 hours without fever-reducing medications.

8) Considerations for Partial or Total Closures

SLOCOE will make every effort to stay open but will keep the health and safety of everyone as the number one priority.

There are potential challenges with the school staying open while faithfully following and complying with the CDPH guidelines. Of significance is the requirement for a staff member who exhibits any of the CDC COVID-19 symptoms to stay home until 24 hours without a fever and 10 days from onset of symptoms or since date of positive test if asymptomatic. It will be important for those staff members to seek medical attention to be accurately diagnosed. A diagnosis other than COVID-19, in most cases, won't necessitate the extended absence.

Absent a diagnosis, finding adequate substitute coverage may pose a challenge based on the age group of our substitute teacher pool (over 65), the willingness of substitute teachers to return to a school environment and the potential likelihood of having more than 1 staff member out at the same extended period of time. In some cases it may mean that we have to close for a short period of time until our instructors are healthy enough to completely staff and supervise the school in a safe manner. Those decisions will be case by case based on the exact conditions at the time.

9) When a student, teacher or staff member tests positive for COVID-19 and exposed others at the school, implement the following steps:

1. In consultation with the local public health department, SLOCOE may decide whether school closure is warranted, including the length of time necessary, based on the risk level within the specific community as determined by the local public health officer.
2. Given standard guidance for quarantine at home for at least 14 days after close contact, the classroom or office where the patient was based will typically need to close temporarily as students or staff quarantine.
3. Additional close contacts at school outside of a classroom should also self quarantine at home.
4. Additional areas of the school visited by the COVID-19 positive individual may also need to be closed temporarily for cleaning and disinfection.
5. Implement communication plans for school closure to include outreach to students, parents, teachers, staff and the community.
6. Include information for staff regarding labor laws, information regarding disability insurance, paid family leaves, and unemployment insurance, as applicable for public local educational agencies.
7. Provide guidance to parents, teachers, and staff, reminding them of the importance of community physical distancing measures while a school is closed, including discouraging students or staff from gathering elsewhere.
8. Develop a plan for continuity of education. Consider in that plan how to also continue nutrition and other services provided in the regular school

setting to establish alternate mechanisms for these services to continue.

9. Maintain regular communications with the local public health department.