

WHAT FAMILIES CAN EXPECT WHEN SCHOOLS REOPEN

The health and safety of our students, staff, and families is of utmost importance. When the 2020-2021 school year begins in Sonoma County, on-campus school will look much different than previous years due to new health and safety measures. This is a summary for families of the guidelines and considerations that schools are using to plan for a safe reopening this fall. They are based on the best available public health data at this time, international best practices, and the practical realities of managing school operations.

The Sonoma County guidance, "Roadmap to a Safe Reopening," is adapted from guidance from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), California Department of Public Health, and California Department of Education (CDE), in collaboration with the Sonoma County school/health planning committee consisting of regional school district superintendents. It was developed in collaboration with and reviewed by the Sonoma County Health Officer. The current guidance is based on direction provided in the existing Sonoma County Public Health Order. **As conditions and health orders change to address this ever-evolving situation, so will the guidance.**

WHEN SCHOOLS RESUME IN THE FALL, THEY WILL LOOK DIFFERENT

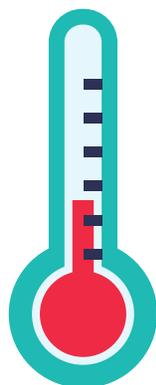
Each school district will be dealing with its own circumstances in creating a customized plan that fits the needs of the community. However, it is important that we all work together to ensure that these guiding principles are at the heart of every school reopening:

- Protect student, staff, and community health
- Foster student learning and progress
- Maintain positive learning environments
- Foster student emotional health
- Care for our most vulnerable populations



SCREENING AT HOME

- Families are recommended to take temperatures daily before going to school. Anyone with a fever of 100.0 or higher should not go to a school site.
- Students and adults should also screen themselves for respiratory symptoms such as cough and shortness of breath prior to coming to school each day. Students and adults experiencing those symptoms should not attend school.



ARRIVING AT SCHOOL

- Staff will be wearing face coverings.
- Students will arrive on buses with fewer students and with windows down when possible. Students should dress accordingly.
- Parents and visitors may have limited access to the school campus.
- Arrival and dismissal times may vary depending on grade level.



HEALTH & SAFETY AT SCHOOL

HYGIENE

Schools will teach and reinforce hand washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and increase monitoring to ensure adherence among students and staff.

Schools will clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces (e.g., playground equipment, door handles, sink handles, drinking fountains) within the school and on school buses at least daily or between use as much as possible.

Schools will limit sharing of supplies between students and disinfect between uses if sharing is unavoidable.

Each student's personal belongings will be separated from others' and in individually labeled containers, cubbies, or areas.



FACE MASKS

Schools will teach and reinforce the use of cloth face coverings in compliance with the current county health order and state mandate. Currently, California has mandated that masks will be required in indoor settings for all children over age two. This is part of a statewide effort to enforce the importance of wearing masks to help stop the spread of Coronavirus. There will be exemptions for students with medical concerns.

SOCIAL DISTANCING

Social distancing will help limit the spread of the virus. Schools will consider the following strategies to maintain smaller groups of students in shared spaces.

These may be modified in future health orders as the school year progresses.

- Modify school schedules
- Keep students in smaller groups
- Serve meals in small group settings
- Serve individually plated or boxed meals
- Space desks further apart to ensure a minimum distance of 6 feet between students
- Stagger lunches, recesses, and other transition times
- Restrict visitors on campus
- Avoid hosting large gatherings such as assemblies and dances
- Where possible, keep student cohorts from mixing



INSTRUCTIONAL OPTIONS FOR SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Quality instruction and commitment to equity for ALL students continues to be a guiding principle for Sonoma County schools. Each district will make decisions based on available resources, local needs, and state policy. Districts are encouraged to prioritize providing a high-quality instructional program by following best practices in the areas of:

- Curriculum selection and instructional delivery models
- Assessment practices and policies, including local and statewide assessments
- Services to special populations, including students with disabilities, socioeconomically disadvantaged students, English Learners, homeless and foster youth
- Access and use of instructional technology
- Expanded learning opportunities
- Other key systems and services

2020-2021 Learning Model Considerations

Options to Serve All Students in the Current Moment

Guiding Principles

- Protect student, staff, and community health
- Foster student learning and progress
- Maintain positive learning environments
- Foster student emotional health
- Care for our most vulnerable populations

TRADITIONAL LEARNING MODEL



- Daily classroom attendance
- Integrated social emotional learning
- Standards-based curriculum
- Student engagement through instructional best practices
- Expanded technology skills through 1:1 device initiative and digital citizenship
- Interventions and enrichment to accommodate all learners

BLENDED LEARNING MODEL (MODIFIED TRADITIONAL)



- Social distancing model with two full-day classroom attendance and three-day distance learning program
- Integrated social emotional learning
- Standards-based curriculum
- Student engagement through instructional best practices and interactive technology
- Classroom-based interventions and enrichment to accommodate all learners
- Supplemental digital support for academic and social emotional learning

DISTANCE LEARNING MODEL



- Daily interactions and teaching from classroom teacher through technology while student learns at home
- Integrated social emotional learning
- Standards-based curriculum
- Student engagement through instructional best practices and interactive technology
- Targeted intervention and enrichment
- Supplemental digital support for academic and social emotional learning

HYBRID MODEL (INDEPENDENT LEARNING)



- Scheduled interactions with teacher at school and through technology while student learns at home
- Social emotional supports
- Standards-based curriculum
- Student engagement through instructional best practices and interactive technology
- Targeted intervention and enrichment
- Supplemental digital support for academic and social emotional learning

Providing Meaningful Learning to Ensure Health and Safety

Note: The selection of a learning model should be informed by local district conditions along with guidance from the Sonoma County Office of Education, Sonoma County's Public Health Officer, California Department of Public Health (CDPH), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).



Sonoma County
Office of Education

STUDENT SUPPORTS

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL SUPPORT

District and school staffs are committed to supporting students' social emotional wellness and offering resources to ensure that students transition back to school smoothly. Support may include social emotional learning, building relationships, community building activities, and increased access to mental health/wellness services. Families and schools will need to work together to check how students are feeling and assess their individual needs to provide the support our students need during these challenging times.



FAMILY RESOURCES

The Sonoma County Office of Education has created a website dedicated to Coronavirus information for schools and families. Check out scoe.org/covid to find the following available information:

- Fall Planning Updates
- School Lunch Finder
- School Updates
- Academic Support
- Mental Health and Emotional Support
- Community Resources to Support Families



The Sonoma County Office of Education, Sonoma County Public Health, and local school districts are committed to ensuring the health and safety of all students. Sonoma County Public Health will continue closely monitoring the rate of infection in Sonoma County. As public guidelines change, districts and schools will adapt and modify plans. We will work together with our students and families to keep our children safe as we transition to our new approach to educating.

