

July 24, 2020

## **Amendment #2: 2020-2021 School Year Planning: A Guide to Address the Challenges of COVID-19**

On Friday, July 17, 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom announced the release of the new California Department of Public Health (CDPH) framework for reopening in-person learning at schools in California. The [COVID-19 and Reopening Framework for K-12 Schools in California](#) mandates that schools, both public and private, may only reopen to in-person instruction when their county has been off the [County Monitoring List](#) for at least 14 days. San Joaquin County is currently on the monitoring list. The CDPH also released updated guidance for schools to follow when in-person instruction resumes: [COVID-19 INDUSTRY GUIDANCE: Schools and School-Based Programs](#).

To reflect these changes, the SJCOE is issuing this July 24, 2020, Guidance Amendment #2 to the 2020-2021 School Year Planning: A Guide to Address the Challenges of COVID-19. This Guidance Amendment has been approved by the San Joaquin County Public Health Officer. The previous amendment recommended that schools in San Joaquin County provide only distance-learning instruction through at least August 2020.

The updated CDPH framework includes information about how existing epidemiological metrics must be used to determine if schools can start in-person instruction. The SJCOE and San Joaquin County Public Health Services (SJCPHS) support the state mandate that requires schools in San Joaquin County to not begin in-person instruction until San Joaquin County is off the County Monitoring List for 14 consecutive days.

There is a single exception. Local health officers in California may grant a waiver to allow elementary schools to reopen in-person instruction if the waiver is requested by the district superintendent (or equivalent for charter or private schools) in consultation with labor, parents, and community-based organizations. When considering a waiver request, the local health officer must consider local data and consult with the CDPH.

In CDPH's document, [COVID-19 INDUSTRY GUIDANCE: Schools and School-Based Programs](#), there are updates to previous guidelines that will continue to be addressed in future amendments. Some of the categories updated in the document to be addressed when schools open to in-person instruction include, but are not limited to:

- Face covering guidance
- Distancing guidance
- Staff training
- Considerations for reopening



The school planning document for San Joaquin County -- [2020-2021 School Year Planning: A Guide to Address the Challenges of COVID-19](#) -- was developed by the SJCOE and SJCPHS in collaboration with superintendents from the county's 14 school districts before its release on June 17, 2020. Aligned with CDPH recommendations and approved by the San Joaquin County Public Health Officer, the document was based on the best available information about COVID-19 in the county at the time of its development and publication. The guidance in the document was subject to revision as circumstances related to COVID-19 changed.

The original planning documents and all amendments can be found at [www.sjcoe.org/healthsafety/](http://www.sjcoe.org/healthsafety/).

The [COVID-19 and Reopening Framework for K-12 Schools in California](#) can be found on the CDPH website at [cdph.ca.gov](http://cdph.ca.gov). The [COVID-19 Industry Guidance: Schools and School-Based Programs](#) can be found with industry guidance documents at [covid.ca.gov](http://covid.ca.gov).