



# TRACY

UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

*"The future belongs  
to the educated"*

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TUSD Families,

Tracy Unified is in the process of sharing the proposed Reopening Elementary Schools plan and will host three information sessions for parents and community, and information sessions with staff during the week of September 14, 2020. Today is a reminder that we are offering 2 sessions for families and community at 4:00pm and 6:30pm. Please refer to the opportunities below to access information about the proposed TUSD Reopening Elementary Schools Plan for grades Tk-5. TUSD understands that there will be many questions regarding health and safety for students and staff when elementary schools are approved to reopen, and we will continue to ensure all school health and safety measures are aligned to current San Joaquin County Health Guidelines.

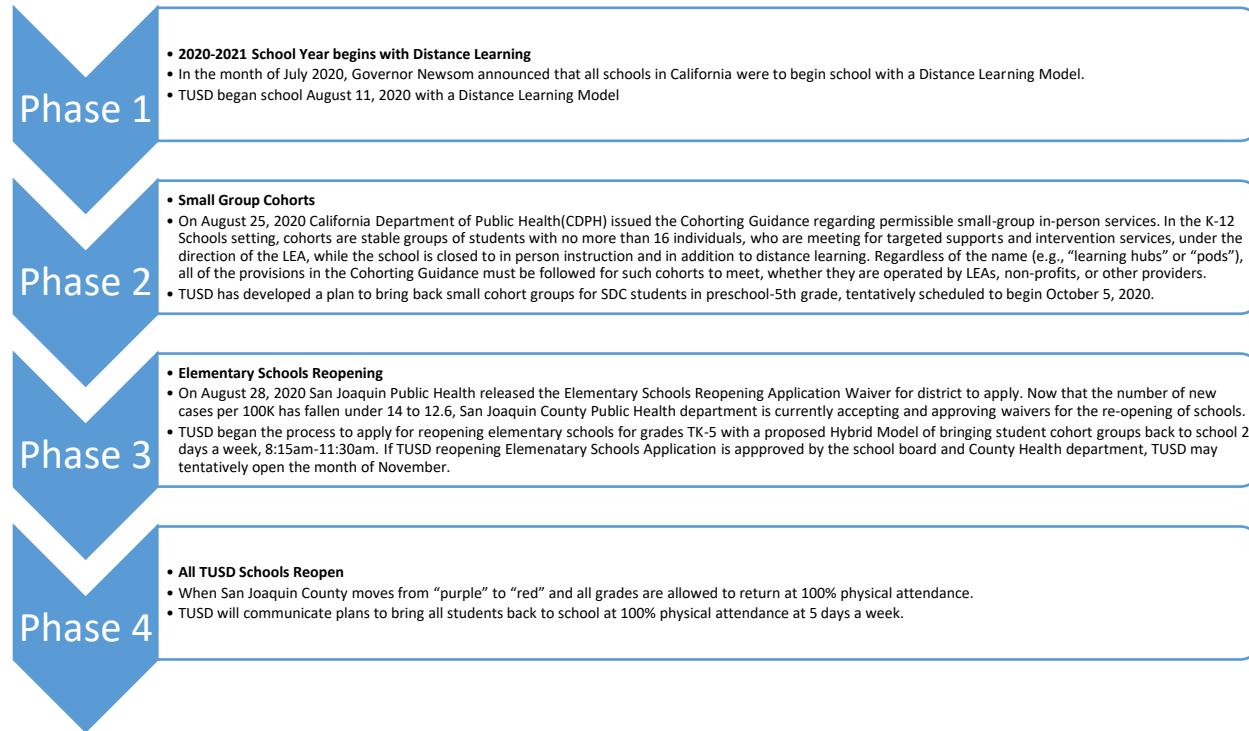
<b>Family Information Sessions</b>	
<b>Topic:</b> Reopening TUSD Elementary Schools Grades Tk-5 Plan	
<b>Date:</b> Tuesday, September 15, 2020	<i>Submit questions and comments 3pm-3:45pm the day of the session.</i>
<b>Time:</b> 4pm-5pm Live session	
<b>Date:</b> Thursday, September 17, 2020	<i>Submit questions and comments 3pm-3:45pm, the day of the session.</i>
<b>Time:</b> 4pm-5pm Live Session	
<b>Date:</b> Thursday, September 17, 2020	<i>Submit questions and comments 5:30pm-6:15pm, the day of the session.</i>
<b>Time:</b> 6:30pm-7:30pm Live Session	
All session information and live links can be found at, under the Family Information Sessions section: <a href="https://www.tracy.k12.ca.us/parentstudent-information/health-services/coronavirus-page">https://www.tracy.k12.ca.us/parentstudent-information/health-services/coronavirus-page</a>	

Due to COVID-19, Tracy Unified School District, like many districts across the nation and the globe, began the 2020-2021 school year in a distance learning instructional model. On June 7, 2020, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) placed San Joaquin County on its monitoring list. On July 17, 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom announced that if a county has been on the monitoring list within the prior 14 days, a school must conduct distance learning only, until the county has been off the monitoring list for at least 14 days. In counties on the monitoring list, CDPH guidance allows a district superintendent, private school principal/head of school, or executive director of a charter school (hereinafter superintendent) to apply for a waiver from the local health officer to open an elementary school for in-person instruction. This waiver is applicable only for grades TK-6, even if the grade configuration at the school includes additional grades.

Waiver requests will not be granted before San Joaquin's countywide case rate is under 200 per 100,000 for 7 consecutive days. The county is recommending a phased approach in school districts with multiple TK-6 schools, to open schools in staggered intervals. When applying for the waiver, the superintendent must submit to the local health officer evidence of (1) consultation with labor and parent organizations and (2) publication of the elementary school reopening plans on the website of the local educational agency (or equivalent). The local health officer then reviews the application and reopening plan (along with local community epidemiological data), makes a determination whether to grant or deny the waiver, and consults with CDPH regarding that determination. Elementary schools in

counties on the monitoring list within the prior 14 days may not open for in-person instruction until they have received approval of a submitted waiver from the local health officer. On August 28, 2020 San Joaquin Public Health released the Elementary Schools Reopening Application Waiver for district to apply. Now that the number of new cases per 100K has fallen under 14 to 12.6, San Joaquin County Public Health department is currently accepting and approving waivers for the re-opening of schools.

TUSD has now began the process of applying for the reopening schools application waiver and will open schools when it is safe to do so. The TUSD plan includes bringing back TK-5<sup>th</sup> grade students to align with the TUSD configuration of elementary schools. Please see the TUSD phases of reopening schools:



What schools are included in the reopening plan?	Bohn Elementary School Central Elementary School Freiler School Hirsch Elementary School Jacobson Elementary School Kelly School McKinley Elementary School North School Poet-Christian School South/West Park Elementary School Villalovoz Elementary School
What grades are included in the Reopening Plan?	Tk-5 <sup>th</sup> Grade
What Educational Model will be used?	Hybrid Model with students attending 2 days a week. Monday/Thursday: last name beginning with A-L Tuesday/Friday: last name beginning with M-Z
What time will students attend school?	8:15am – 11:30am

Will transportation be available?	Transportation will be available, for eligibility please go to <a href="https://www.tracy.k12.ca.us/departments/transportation">https://www.tracy.k12.ca.us/departments/transportation</a>
Will students have their temperatures checked?	Yes, all students will have their temperatures checked daily, upon entering their 1 <sup>st</sup> period class or homeroom.
What Educational Option is available to me if I do not want my students to return to school physically?	Parents can apply to Tracy Independent Study Charter School. Our TUSD Independent Study Charter School provides an online Edgenuity curriculum and is an independent study program option for students in grades K-12. More information can be found at: <a href="https://tracycharter.tracy.k12.ca.us/">https://tracycharter.tracy.k12.ca.us/</a>

<b>Cohorting:</b> How students will be kept in small, stable, groups with fixed membership that stay together for all activities (e.g., instruction, lunch, recess) and minimize/avoid contact with other groups or individuals who are not part of the cohort.
<p>TUSD will implement a Hybrid Model to ensure small cohorts of students:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Group A (student last name beginning with A-L) cohort shall attend in person learning on Mondays and Thursday of each week. A calendar will be created for weeks that do not have five student days so that half of the week's days will be assigned for cohort A to attend in person learning.</li> <li>b) Group B (student last name beginning with M-Z) cohort shall attend in person learning on Tuesday and Friday of each week. A calendar will be created for weeks that do not have five student days so that half of the week's days will be assigned for Group B to attend in person learning.</li> <li>c) One day per week (Wednesdays) will be assigned for both Group A and Group B cohorts to receive distance learning so that Unit members may perform all professional duties for both the in-person and distance learning. Teachers will have the option to work from home on this day, including attendance at professional development and staff meeting activities. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. All shared playground structures and equipment will be suspended until further notice.</li> <li>b. All shared classroom supplies will be limited and strongly discouraged.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

<b>Face Coverings and Other Essential Protective Gear:</b> How CDPH's face covering requirements will be satisfied and enforced.
<p><b>COVID-19 Face Covering Quick Guide for TUSD Students</b></p> <p>Face coverings may help reduce the spread of potentially infectious droplets within the community when combined with physical distancing and hand washing.</p> <p>Per California Department of Public Health (CDPH) guidance dated August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020: Physical distancing, in combination with the use of face coverings, decrease the risk of COVID 19 from respiratory droplets. Physical distancing between adults must be maintained as much as possible, and adults and students must use face coverings at all</p>

times, pursuant to the CDPH Schools Guidance. See the CDPH Guidance on Schools and School Based Programs (PDF) and Child Care (PDF) for additional considerations regarding, face mask, meals, cleaning, drop off/pick up, and health screenings.

Face Coverings *must* be used in accordance with CDPH guidelines *unless* a person is exempt as explained below. Face Coverings are particularly important in places such as indoor environments, on school buses, and areas where physical distancing alone is not sufficient to help prevent disease transmission.

#### **How to Use:**

The San Joaquin County Department of Public Health encourages the public to wear a face covering over your nose and mouth when you must be in public for essential activities (e.g., shopping at the grocery store). Face Coverings are for those who can maintain a minimum of 6 feet distance with other people in their work environment and require little to no interaction with the general public. Wearing a face covering does not eliminate the need to physically distance yourself from others and to wash your hands frequently.

#### **Cloth Face Covering Care:**

Wash cloth face covering frequently, ideally after each use, or at least daily - Launder with detergent and hot water - Dry on hot cycle - Wash your hands when putting on and removing your face covering and avoid touching your face.

#### **Some examples of Face Coverings:**

Bandana, Homemade sewn cloth, Scarf, Tightly woven fabric, cloth mask, disposable mask, etc.

#### **Per California Department of Education, at a minimum face coverings should be worn:**

- While waiting to enter the school campus.
- While on school grounds (except when eating or drinking).
- While leaving school
- While on a school bus

#### **The following individuals are exempt from wearing a face covering per CDPH Guidance dated June 18, 2020:**

- Persons younger than two years old. These very young children must not wear a face covering because of the risk of suffocation.
- Persons with a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability that prevents wearing a face covering. This includes persons with a medical condition for whom wearing a face covering could obstruct breathing or who are unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove a face covering without assistance.
- Persons who are hearing impaired, or communicating with a person who is hearing impaired, where the ability to see the mouth is essential for communication.

- Persons for whom wearing a face covering would create a risk to the person related to their work, as determined by local, state, or federal regulators or workplace safety guidelines.
- Persons who are obtaining a service involving the nose or face for which temporary removal of the face covering is necessary to perform the service.
- Persons who are seated at a restaurant or other establishment that offers food or beverage service, while they are eating or drinking, provided that they are able to maintain a distance of at least six feet away from persons who are not members of the same household or residence.
- Persons who are engaged in outdoor work or recreation such as swimming, walking, hiking, bicycling, or running, when alone or with household members, and when they are able to maintain a distance of at least six feet from others.

**Note:** Persons exempted from wearing a face covering due to a medical condition who are employed in a job involving regular contact with others should wear a non-restrictive alternative, such as a face shield with a drape on the bottom edge, as long as their condition permits it.

## STUDENTS

Age	Face Covering Requirement
Under 2 years old	No
2 years old-2 <sup>nd</sup> grade	Strongly Encouraged**
3 <sup>rd</sup> grade - High School	Yes, unless exempt by MD

\*\*Face coverings are strongly encouraged for young children between two years old and second grade, if they can be worn properly. A face shield is an acceptable alternative for children in this cohort who cannot wear them properly.

### Resources:

California Department of Education (2020, June).

<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/he/hn/documents/strongertogether.pdf>

CDPH (2020, June). <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/OPA/Pages/NR20-128.aspx>

CDPH (2020, August). <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/small-groups-child-youth.aspx>

Cloth Face Covers (CDC). <http://tiny.cc/cdc-diy-face-cover>

San Joaquin County Public Health. <http://www.sjcphs.org/>

**Entrance, Egress, and Movement Within the School:** How movement of students, staff, and parents will be managed to avoid close contact and/or mixing of cohorts.

- All TUSD Elementary Schools have developed Site Operational Plans to promote safe movement on campus with hybrid model cohorts.

**Health Screenings for Students and Staff:** How students and staff will be screened for symptoms of COVID-19 and how ill students or staff will be separated from others and sent home immediately.

- All sites will administer temperature checks to students upon entering their first period class/homeroom. Staff members will continue to follow the self-check symptom guidance prior to coming to work provided by TUSD Human Resources Department aligned to the San Joaquin County Health Department guidance. Students and staff who are displaying COVID-19 symptoms will follow the health processes and protocols provided by San Joaquin County Health Department.

**Healthy Hygiene Practices:** The availability of handwashing stations and hand sanitizer, and how their use will be promoted and incorporated into routines.

- All TUSD classrooms and facilities will have hand sanitizer available and encouraged to use regularly.

**Identification and Tracing of Contacts:** Actions that staff will take when there is a confirmed case. Confirm that the school(s) have designated staff persons to support contact tracing, such as creation and submission of lists of exposed students and staff to the local health department and notification of exposed persons. Each school must designate a person for the local health department to contact about COVID-19.

**Physical Distancing:** How space and routines will be arranged to allow for physical distancing of students and staff.

**A Hybrid Learning Model will be implemented in the event of San Joaquin County Health Department providing guidance of required social distancing**

- Social Distancing Model with 2 full-day classroom attendance & three-day distance learning program
- All students and staff are required to wear masks, with the exception of those who have a medical/health condition that prohibit it, when attending the 2 full days of instruction at school.
- Integrated social emotional learning
- TUSD's standards-based, adopted curriculum focused on all Critical & Essential Priority Standards
- Student learning aligned to rigor, relevance, and relationships  
Student engagement through instructional best practices with blended learning embedded

All TUSD school sites will implement Operational COVID-19 Safety Measure Plans

- a. Established arrival and departure processes & protocols
- b. Classroom Space will recommend to space desks further apart to promote physical distancing where practicable, with one directional seating
- c. Remove all excess furniture to allow for maximum distancing within a classroom.

- d. Non-Classroom Space will have established processes & protocols for one directional foot trafficking

**Staff Training and Family Education:** How staff will be trained, and families will be educated on the application and enforcement of the plan.

**Testing of Students and Staff:** How school officials will ensure that students and staff who have symptoms of COVID-19 or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 will be rapidly tested and what instructions they will be given while waiting for test results. Describe how staff will be tested periodically to detect asymptomatic infections.

- TUSD will follow guidance currently being developed by San Joaquin County Health Department.

**Triggers for Switching to Distance Learning:** The criteria the superintendent will use to determine when to physically close the school and prohibit in-person instruction.

- TUSD will follow guidance provided by San Joaquin County Health Department.

**Communication Plans:** How the superintendent will communicate with students, staff, and parents about cases and exposures at the school, consistent with privacy requirements such as FERPA and HIPAA.

We look forward to continuing to provide ongoing communication and updates throughout the year as we navigate through the year of 2020-2021.

Sincerely,

Julianna Stocking  
Associate Superintendent of Educational Services  
Tracy Unified School District