



**Frequently Asked Questions
Return to In-Person Instruction
Updated 10.6.20**

OPERATIONAL QUESTIONS

Is the District following local and state guidance for opening schools?

Absolutely.

What is the daily bell schedule for special education students returning to campus under the stable cohort guidance?

School will begin at 7:30 daily. On Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays school will be dismissed at 2:40. Wednesdays will remain a FLEX day with dismissal at 1:10.

How are cohorts being established?

Cohorts will be established based on parent's decisions and willingness to have their children return to in-person instruction. When feasible, the District will create cohorts where students are at-home or receiving in-person instruction; however, there will be cohorts that are a hybrid, requiring teachers to teach both in-person and at-home students.

How many total students and employees are permitted in a stable cohort?

According to Los Angeles Department of Public Health (LADPH) guidelines, stable cohorts are limited to 14. In a typical circumstance this would be broken down to 12 students and 2 adults. In instances that students in the cohort have a Special Circumstance Paraeducator, this additional employee would reduce the total number of students in the cohort. No cohort can exceed a total of 14 individuals.

How will substitutes be used without breaking cohorts?

The public health guidance allows substitutes to enter one cohort per day.

Will bus aides be part of the cohort?

At this time, the public health guidance does not require bus aides to be assigned to any one cohort.

Will students be screened prior to arriving at school?

Yes. Students arriving by bus will be screened by our partners at the Antelope Valley Schools Transportation Agency upon entering the bus. Those students arriving by personal transportation will participate in a screening upon arriving at school at a designated drop off area. Wellness screenings will include a temperature check, along with a brief symptoms screening.



How will students enter and exit school?

There will be separate entrances at each school site for those arriving by bus and those being dropped by parents. Site will communicate the location of entrances and exits to staff and parents.

What if students have to be excluded from school?

Students who have to be excluded will immediately transition to at-home learning. The expectation is that the student will maintain the same teacher.

What happens to learning and teaching if an entire classroom or school needs to close?

The teachers and students would transition into the Distance Learning option of the "At-Home Learning". Our current "At-School Learning" model allows for our students and teachers to seamlessly transition to "At-Home Learning" if the need arises.

What if a family member that lives in the same home with a student or staff member test positive for COVID?

Staff and students who have recently had close contact with a person with COVID-19 should stay home and monitor their health.

Will parent volunteers be permitted?

We will not be allowing parent volunteers to participate on campus. At some point, we would like to have all volunteers and will be monitoring safety regulations in order to welcome volunteers back to our school.

HEALTH & SAFETY

What measures will be implemented on campus to ensure the safety of staff and students?

Cleaning and Disinfecting: AVUHSD will take essential actions to create a physical environment that promotes student and staff safety through established protocols and procedures. These will include daily disinfection of areas used by students and staff, and focus on high-touch surfaces such as door handles and restrooms during the day.

Physical Distancing: We will encourage physical distancing throughout the day. Schedules will be developed to reduce numbers of students in common areas during breaks, lunches, and reduce large gatherings. Classrooms will utilize space by spreading desks and tables around the room, as well as using vacant classrooms and outdoor spaces, as available.

Hygiene: Hygiene practices will be reviewed regularly with students. We will teach and reinforce washing hands, avoiding contact with one's eyes, nose, and mouth, and covering coughs and



sneezes among students and staff. We are adding hand sanitizer stations to high traffic areas on all campuses.

Does the District have sufficient PPE?

Yes. The District has made a significant investment in PPE, and has sufficient and appropriate PPE available. The District has open Purchase Orders in order to replenish PPE, as needed.

Are students required to wear face masks all day?

Yes. There are exceptions for students who are medically unable to wear face masks.

Will the District conduct surveillance testing (random sampling of a certain percentage of a specific population) of its employees?

Not at this time. However, in accordance with public health guidance the District has a plan to conduct surveillance testing when/if required to do so by the County.

Will the District conduct contact tracing when there's a positive test result or COVID symptoms are present for students or staff?

Yes. The District works with local public health officials to conduct contact tracing when there's a positive test result or a student or teacher exhibits COVID symptoms.

If a student wakes up feeling ill, what do they do?

Students should not attend in-person school if they are feeling ill or experiencing any symptoms. Their absence will be excused under illness.

What will happen if a student or staff member develops a fever or symptoms while on campus?

STAFF: If at any time during the school day a staff member develops a fever on campus, the staff member will be sent home.

STUDENT: A student who is ill and exhibiting symptoms of Covid-19 will be supervised in a separate area until parents arrive to pick them up.

What happens if a staff member or student tests positive? Will school be closed for 14 days? Is there a procedure in place for quarantining in the event that a person on campus tests positive or in the case that a family member of a student or staff personnel tests positive?

We will work with public health on whether a decision needs to be made to close school. We will review context, contacts and exposure to others to inform necessary next steps. When a student, teacher or staff member tests positive for COVID-19 and has exposed others at the school, we will implement the following steps:

- In consultation with the local public health department, the appropriate school official 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.

- Given standard guidance for isolation 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 isolate.
- Additional close contacts at school outside of a classroom should also isolate at home.
- Additional areas of the school visited by the COVID-19 positive individual may also need to be closed temporarily for cleaning and disinfection.
- Implement communication plans for school closure to include outreach to students, parents, teachers, staff and the community.
- 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.
- Students and staff required to quarantine will immediately transition to the “At-Home Learning” model.
- Maintain regular communications with the local public health department.

Will students sent home due to COVID-19 exposure be required to enroll in a “At-Home Learning” model until it is safe for them to return, or permanently?

Students will immediately begin to participate in the Distance Learning option of the “At-Home Learning” model. They will continue with the work assigned from their in-person teacher, participating virtually in the classes instead.

CLEANING & SANITIZING

How often will restrooms be cleaned?

Restrooms will be cleaned per state and local public health guidance. Generally, restrooms will be cleaned, at least once a day, nightly, and as needed.

When will surfaces be cleaned?

All surfaces will be disinfected using foggers, on an, at least, daily occurrence. An emphasis will be placed on high touch points.

Will there be a cleaning checklist?

Yes- each site will create a cleaning checklist.

MEAL SERVICE FOR STUDENTS

How will food services be handled?

Students will receive food service in a similar manner as pre-COVID-19. Physical distancing will be required.



How will lunch be served?

Students will remain in their stable cohorts. Food will be provided either in the cafeteria or outside, with physical distancing. Students will be supervised by staff and/or administration. Teachers will receive a duty free lunch.

INSTRUCTIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

What is the plan for students using manipulative and other instructional materials?

Students will have their own materials or steps will be taken to ensure that instructional materials are disinfected between uses.

Will students bring technology to and from school and home?

No. The District has sufficient technology to support students both at home and at school.

Will the District be providing pullout services?

Yes. Students will be provided with the services designated in the IEP while at school. At this time, these services will be provided in a 1:1 setting. Paraeducators are permitted by LADPH to attend the session; however this can be decided based on the specific needs of the student. Further guidance from LADPH is anticipated to potentially allow for cohorted group services.

In situations where students need a physical intervention, how do you maintain physical distancing?

In an instance where an employee and student will be in close proximity, staff can increase their PPE to include a face shield, gloves, and/or gown as determined by the specific situation. Staff are encouraged to minimize the time in close proximity to the best of their ability.

How will special education students attending in-person instruction participate in their virtual general education classes?

Students will access their general education classes from a separate classroom on campus with a classroom paraeducator.

Will sports and extra-curricular activities be permitted for the 2020-21 school year?

On Monday, July 13 we began phase one of a three-phase return to athletics and activities. In phase one, teams and clubs are permitted to gather in groups no more than 10, in outdoor spaces only, and maintain at least 6 feet of physical distancing. Specific information will be made available from your student's school.