



**Dinuba Unified School District**

**COVID-19 Response Plan**

**2023-2024 School Year**

**Revised: September 2023**

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## Reopening Criteria

### **Consultation:** Labor Organizations, Parent, and Community Organizations

Consultation with our stakeholders is critical for school safety for Dinuba Unified School District students, families, and staff. Dinuba Unified School District has worked collaboratively with both labor organizations since the start of the pandemic in March 2020. Additionally, Dinuba Unified has placed high importance on input from the Dinuba community. Collaboration has occurred through Zoom meetings, webinars, meetings, and multiple surveys. Below is a list of the meetings held. Initially, the COVID-19 Response Plan was first presented to the School Board of Education on November 19, 2020:

<b>Dinuba Unified School Board of Education Meetings</b> (open to the public; School Reopening Plans and School Waivers as agenda items)	
July 9, 2020 July 23, 2020 August 13, 2020 October 8, 2020	October 29, 2020 November 19, 2020 July 28, 2021 October 14, 2021 December 15, 2022
<b>Dinuba Unified Parent Forums:</b>	<b>Dinuba Unified Teacher Forums</b>
District Wide Parent Forum - May 28, 2020 Grand View - June 4, 2020 Jefferson - May 27, 2020 Kennedy - June 4, 2020 Lincoln - June 4, 2020 Roosevelt - May 28, 2020 Wilson - June 4, 2020 Roosevelt - September 17, 2020 Jefferson - October 7, 2020	Grand View Teacher Forum - June 4, 2020 Jefferson Teacher Forum - May 27, 2020 Kennedy Teacher Forum - June 4, 2020 Lincoln Teacher Forum - May 28, 2020 Roosevelt Teacher Forum - May 26, 2020 Wilson Teacher Forum - June 4, 2020 Grand View Reopening Meeting - November 2, 2020 Jefferson Reopening Meeting - November 2, 2020 Kennedy Reopening Meeting - November 4, 2020 Lincoln Reopening Meeting - November 2, 2020 Roosevelt Reopening Meeting - November 2, 2020 Wilson Reopening Meeting - November 2, 2020
<b>District English Language Advisory Committee</b>	<b>Dinuba Unified Community Forum</b>
August 6, 2020 September 9, 2020	Dinuba Town Hall Reopening Webinar - November 10, 2020
<b>CSEA-District Meetings</b>	<b>Dinuba Teachers Association-District Meetings</b>
August 3, 2020 August 7, 2020 September 8, 2020	April 27, 2020 July 9, 2020 September 3, 2020

September 30, 2020 October 5, 2020 November 5, 2020	October 2, 2020 October 9, 2020 December 4, 2020 January 29, 2021 February 16, 2021 March 15, 2021	
<b>District Health and Safety Implementation Team Meetings</b>		
October 20-23, 2020 October 26, 2020 November 18, 2020 December 2, 2020 December 9, 2020 December 16, 2020 December 23, 2020 January 13, 2021 January 6, 2021 January 27, 2021 February 3, 2021 February 10, 2021 February 12, 2021 February 17, 2021 February 24, 2021 February 26, 2021 March 3, 2021 March 10, 2021 March 15, 2021 March 17, 2021	August 11, 2021 August 18, 2021 August 25, 2021 September 1, 2021 September 8, 2021 September 21, 2021 September 29, 2021 October 13, 2021 October 20, 2021 October 27, 2021 November 17, 2021 December 1, 2021 January 5, 2022 January 12, 2022 January 19, 2022 January 26, 2022 February 23, 2022 March 2, 2022 March 16, 2022	August 17, 2022 September 7, 2022 October 5, 2022 November 9, 2022 December 7, 2022 January 11, 2023 February 8, 2023 March 8, 2023 April 19, 2023 May 17, 2023  August, 23, 2023 September 20, 2023

**An updated MOU with The Dinuba Teachers Association (DTA) was approved on February 10, 2021.**

**COVID-19 Response Plan**

The District has posted the COVID-19 Response Plan 2023-24 on their website at [www.dinuba.k12.ca.us](http://www.dinuba.k12.ca.us).

DUSD Superintendent, Dr. Hernandez has overall authority and responsibility for implementing the provisions of this document. In addition, all managers and supervisors are responsible for implementing and maintaining protocols in their assigned work areas and for ensuring employees receive answers to questions about the program in a language they understand. All employees are responsible for using safe work practices, following all directives, policies and procedures, and assisting in maintaining a safe work environment.

The health and safety of our students, staff, and families is of the utmost importance. The Covid-19 Response Plan has been revised and developed collaboratively and informed by the Tulare County Health and Human Services (TCHHS), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the California Department of Public Health (CDPH).

Plans, protocols, and guidance are designed to mitigate and reduce the spread of COVID-19 within our schools. As long as COVID-19 is present in our community, we cannot completely prevent it from entering our schools, but we must act to mitigate the spread and risk with strict adherence to health and safety protocols.

This document outlines requirements applicable in DUSD, and cites sources for requirements and to access additional information about the requirements.

On **August 28, 2023**, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) published its updated recommendations for TK-12 schools, [Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools](#). The following guidance applies recommendations to the California context, in order to help TK-12 schools formulate and implement plans for safe, successful, and full in-person instruction in the 2023-24 school year.

**The foundational principle of this guidance is that all students must have access to safe and full in-person instruction and to as much instructional time as possible.**

The Covid-19 Response Plan has been developed with the following guiding principles:

- Promote, implement, and reinforce safe and health practices.
- Provide quality instruction and maintain learning continuity.
- Ensure access and equity for ALL students.
- Partner with students, families, community, and labor groups.
- Learn and improve as the plan is implemented.

## Common Plan Elements

### Cleaning & Ventilation Measures:

DUSD has adopted a systems approach to cleaning and air purification. The DUSD Facilities Department works in conjunction with Tulare County Public Health Department, California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and California Division of Occupational Safety and Health Administration (Cal/OSHA) to ensure that proper cleaning and HVAC protocols are followed as prescribed.

DUSD has equipped each classroom with a Bipolar Ionization system in each air conditioning unit. The process is to optimize air quality in each classroom by creating and releasing ions into the airstream. These ions seek out particles like dust, bacteria, and viruses that can be contained and filter them out of the air thus creating clean airflow. Finally, Bipolar Ionization reduces on surface viruses by 99.98% over a 60 min. time window as per Global Plasma Solutions, Inc. <https://globalplasmasolutions.com/third-party-testing>.

According to the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) [Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools](#), routine cleaning is sufficient to remove the virus that causes Covid-19 from surfaces. If disinfectants are used, the usage of asthma-safer products is recommended.

## **Classroom Spaces**

Classrooms will be cleaned daily. Classrooms will be sanitized/disinfected by trained custodial staff upon request. The following are frequently touched areas that will be cleaned and disinfected:

- Door handles
- Handrails
- Sink Handles
- Restroom surfaces
- Light switches
- Student desks - do not require daily cleaning only if necessary (spillage, dirty). Bipolar Ionization kills the bacteria on surfaces. Each room is fitted with this system.
- Chairs - do not require daily cleaning - see Bipolar Ionization above.
- Shared technology and supplies

## **Classroom Materials**

Supplies can be shared amongst students. After an illness, there should be limited access to areas used by the sick person until cleaned and disinfected.

## **Libraries**

Students can access the library following the health and safety guidelines for indoor settings.

## **Buses**

School buses should be thoroughly cleaned after transporting any individual who is exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19. Drivers will be provided with cleaning materials to support cleaning of frequently touched surfaces during the day.

## **Playgrounds**

Outdoor playgrounds and natural play areas only need routine maintenance. Students are advised to wash and or sanitize their hands before and after using these spaces.

## **Ventilation Measures**

The HVAC will be turned on 2 hours prior to student and staff arrival using the setting to increase outside air circulation. MERV 13 filters are used and will be changed 4 times yearly. All efforts will be made to optimize ventilation. The District has installed Bipolar Ionization systems in all classrooms to optimize air quality.

## **Entrance, Egress, Movement:** How visitors and volunteers will be managed to avoid close contact.

The following guidelines are for adult volunteers interacting with students at any time:

1. Volunteer packets must be picked up at the school site, completed by the potential volunteer, and returned to the school site. Site administration will review applications and work to clear the volunteers if all criteria are met.
2. The school site will provide a schedule for the volunteer before the volunteer begins service. This is to ensure we have the ability to effectively contact trace in the event of an exposure to COVID-19.
3. All volunteers are required to sign in and sign out through the school site's main office during the instructional day or with assigned staff who oversee volunteers during events outside of the instructional day.

## **Face Coverings and Other Protective Gear:**

### **Face Coverings**

DUSD will align with California Department of Public Health Department (CPHD) and California Division of Occupational Safety and Health (Cal/OSHA) employer-specific guidance on face coverings for students, staff, and visitors to DUSD facilities, including requirements for post-exposure masking and masking following a shortened isolation.

- DUSD will provide masks to students and staff as requested.

As noted in CDPH guidance "no person can be prevented from wearing a mask as a condition of participation in an activity or entry into a venue or business (including schools or childcare), unless wearing a mask would pose a safety hazard" [e.g., watersports].

Unless otherwise directed by local health departments or local educational agencies, students and staff should follow CDPH guidance as well as masking guidance for specific situations referenced below (e.g., when having symptoms, being infected, or exposed).

### **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**

DUSD will evaluate the need for PPE (such as gloves, goggles), and provide and ensure use as needed.

## **Health Screenings for Staff and Students:** How students and staff will be screened for symptoms of COVID-19

Daily health screening checks should be conducted at home by parents or guardians. Daily health screening at home should be conducted for: 1) Temperature 100.4 or higher, 2) Sore throat, 3) Cough, 4) Difficulty breathing, 5) Diarrhea or vomiting and, 6) Headache.

Elite Medical Services will no longer be providing on site Covid-19 testing for staff and students. Parents can reach out to their schools if needing a Covid-19 home test.

### **Students & Staff:**

Individuals who test positive for Covid-19 should stay home for at least 5 days and isolate themselves from others.

Individuals may return to school after day 5 if:

- No fever for 24 hours.
- Have symptoms that are improving.

Individuals should take precautions when returning to school after completing their 5-day isolation. This includes wearing a well-fitted mask from days 6 to 10.

Individuals who have been exposed to someone with Covid-19 regardless where the exposure took place, may remain in school unless they develop symptoms or test positive for Covid-19. Individuals should monitor their symptoms and consider testing within 3-5 days.

## **Healthy Hygiene Practices:**

### **Healthy Hygiene Practices**

#### **School Setting**

In order to stay healthy and safe, all students and staff will need to do their part by adhering to healthy hygiene practices. DUSD will focus on the following actions to support good hygiene habits:

- Post signs in highly visible areas to remind students and staff of proper handwashing, covering of coughs, sneezes, and other prevention measures.
- Ensure adequate supplies to support healthy hygiene behaviors for each classroom and work location to allow for regular hand washing and or sanitizing.

#### **Handwashing**

Staff and students will be instructed in the proper handwashing technique. Staff will model proper handwashing techniques for students to ensure understanding. The proper hand washing technique includes washing hands for at least 20 seconds with soap, rubbing the hands thoroughly after applying the soap, and using paper towels to dry the hands. Sites will develop a plan which provides the opportunity for students to frequently wash their hands.

Students and staff are recommended to wash and or sanitize their hands at the following times:

- upon entering/before leaving campus
- before and after eating
- upon entering/prior to leaving the classroom
- after coughing or sneezing
- after playing outside



- before and after using the restroom
- after having close contact with others
- using shared surfaces or tools
- before entering the bus or other district vehicle

### Healthy Hygiene Practices in School Buses and District Vehicles

#### Passive Screening:

Students will be screened by parents before coming to school.

- Tissues will be provided in buses and district vehicles for student and staff use.
- Touchless trash cans will be provided in buses and district vehicles for disposal of tissues and wipes.

**Face Coverings:** The following protocols for face coverings will be enforced:

- Each bus will be equipped with extra unused face coverings for students who may need one.

### Healthy Hygiene Practices in Food Services

All meal service practices will be approved by the local health department. The Food Service Department will follow the following protocols to ensure the safety of students and staff.

- During all preparation of meals the Child Nutrition staff will wash their hands every 30 minutes (timers will be set by the lead cook).
- Staff will wear hair nets, clean aprons, and gloves.
- All surfaces will be cleaned daily before and after use and whenever needed.
- All meals will meet NSLP, NSBP, and CACFP meal requirements.
- Meal counts will be recorded by Child Nutrition staff every day. This information will be returned to the Child Nutrition office for reimbursement and record keeping purposes.

**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 with contact tracing . Each school must designate a person for the local health department to contact about COVID-19.

Upon receipt of a confirmed COVID-19 case, the District will conduct an assessment using site leads to determine the next steps to be taken. The district administrator, Dr. Jesse Sanchez is designated as the contact for the local health officials in all communications regarding COVID-19. Dr. Sanchez will work with principals, other supervisors, and designated health staff to conduct any necessary contact tracing. It should be noted that when conducting risk assessments, a high risk contact is anyone who has been within 6' and has had a cumulative exposure time of 15 minutes or more without wearing an approved face covering.

The chart below shows individuals who serve as points of contact with Dr. Sanchez. Dr. Sanchez will follow all steps deemed appropriate by the local health officials, including when a class cohort and/or a bus cohort may need to quarantine.

School Site	Person responsible for contact tracing	Title
District Lead	Jesse Sanchez	District Administrator
District Lead	Diana Jow	District Nurse
Grand View	Jesse Rodriguez	Principal
Grand View	Carly Luna	Nurse
Jefferson	Robert Valenzuela	Principal
Jefferson	Diana Jow	RN
Kennedy	Blake Benham	Principal
Kennedy	Ana Sanchez	LVN
Lincoln	Melissa Vega	Principal
Lincoln	Diana Jow	RN
Roosevelt	Liz Gonzalez	Principal
Roosevelt	Maria Lopez	LVN
Wilson	Maria Lichtenwaltd	Principal
Wilson	Alex Contreras	LVN
WIS	Kevin Thomas	Principal
WIS	Vanessa Tamez	LVN
Dinuba High	Andrew Popp	Principal
Dinuba High	Erika Espinoza	LVN
Sierra Vista	Jonathan Torres	Principal
Sierra Vista	Marie Sanchez	RN

A notification will be sent to parents/guardians/staff of any known or suspected exposure to confirmed positive cases along with information about the subsequent risk assessment and recommended isolation or quarantine process to be followed.

### Physical Distancing:

DUSD has established worksite-specific COVID-19 prevention plans that includes a comprehensive risk assessment of all work areas and work tasks. Site administration is responsible for implementing the plan as well as regularly evaluating the workplace for compliance and making any necessary corrections. Therefore, physical distancing will not

be a requirement for staff and students. As indicated, DUSD has placed safety measures (ventilation, cleaning, washing...) to promote both safety and in-person learning by reducing the need for physical distancing.

### **Instructional Space**

Recent evidence indicates that in-person instruction can occur safely without minimum physical distancing requirements when other mitigation strategies (e.g., masking) are implemented.

### **Guidance for School Athletics**

Athletics, school events and extracurricular activities will be conducted in accordance with requirements of applicable governing bodies, and all other required health and safety measures.

- The requirements and recommendations will apply to all activities that are operated or supervised by schools, and all activities that occur on a school site, whether or not they occur during school hours, including, but not limited to, sports, band, chorus, and clubs.

### **Student Routines**

To help reduce possible transmission between students and adults, students will follow the following practices:

- Students should only bring essential items to school.
- Students will follow a one way flow of travel pattern where indicated on campus, such as in hallways or on sidewalks.

### **Transportation Specific Routines**

School buses will operate at normal capacity.

- Student riders shall maintain physical possession of their personal property while in the school bus or district vehicle including, but not limited to, backpacks, book bags, lunch boxes, clothing, toys, electronic devices, etc.
- Student riders shall wait for and follow, driver instructions for the loading and unloading procedure of the school bus or district vehicle
  - Student riders are required to board and take their assigned seat in the order of pick up or drop off
- School buses and district vehicles shall be operated with a flow of fresh air at all times while student riders are aboard, such as a minimum of two fully open windows, roof hatches and outside air circulating through air conditioning systems if equipped.

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

### **Training all Staff and Educating Families**

Training will be provided to all staff as needed and appropriate educational materials (ie district website, videos, brochures, letters, etc.) will be provided to families in the following safety actions:

- Screening practices
- How COVID-19 is spread
- COVID-19 specific symptom identification
- Preventing the spread of COVID-19 if you are sick, including the importance of not coming to work or school if staff members or students have symptoms, or if they or someone they live with has been diagnosed with COVID-19.
- COVID-19 specific symptom identification and when to seek medical attention
- The district’s plan and procedures to follow when children or adults become sick at school.
- The district’s plan and procedures to protect employees from COVID-19 illness.

All DUSD employees can report symptoms, possible close contacts and hazards without fear of reprisal.

Employees with medical or other conditions that put them at increased risk of severe COVID-19 illness can request accommodations, and should contact their supervisor for next steps and to address any concerns.

**Testing of Students and Staff:** How school officials will ensure that students and staff who have symptoms of 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.

Here are updated Covid-19 protocols for 2023-24 for school employees or students experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, has a positive COVID-19 test, or has been exposed to an individual with a confirmed COVID-19 diagnosis.

Persons Who Test Positive for COVID-19	Close Contact: Asymptomatic Persons Who are Exposed to Someone with COVID-19.
Everyone, regardless of vaccination status, previous infection, or lack of symptoms.	Everyone, regardless of vaccination status.  Persons infected within the prior 30 days do not need to be tested, quarantined, or excluded from work unless symptoms develop.
Recommended Actions	Recommended Actions
<p><b>Stay home</b> for at least 5 days after the start of symptoms (Day 0) or after the date of first positive test (Day 0) if no symptoms).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Isolation can end after Day 5 if:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Symptoms are not present, or are mild and improving; AND</li> <li>○ Fever has been resolved for 24 hours</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Test within 3-5 days after last exposure.</li> <li>● Close contacts should wear a well-fitting mask around others for a total of 10 days, especially in indoor settings and when near those at higher risk for severe COVID-19 disease (see masking section below for additional information).</li> <li>● Strongly encouraged to be <b>up to date</b> with COVID-19 vaccines.</li> </ul>

<p>(without the use of fever-reducing medication).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● If fever is present, isolation should be continued until 24 hours after fever resolves.</li> <li>● If symptoms, other than fever, are not improving, continue to isolate until symptoms are improving or until after Day 10.</li> <li>● If the confirmed case has severe symptoms, or is at high risk of serious disease or has questions concerning care, they should contact their healthcare provider for available treatments.</li> <li>● Wear a well-fitting mask around others for a total of 10 days, especially in indoor settings.*</li> <li>● After ending isolation, if symptoms recur or worsen, test again and if positive, restart isolation at Day 0</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● If symptoms develop, test, and stay home AND</li> <li>● If test result is positive, follow isolation recommendations</li> </ul>
<p><b><u><a href="#">Covid-19 Public Health Guidance</a></u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b><u><a href="#">Tulare County Positivity Rates</a></u></b></li> <li>○ <b><u><a href="#">AB 685 Notice</a></u></b></li> <li>○ <b><u><a href="#">Covid-19 Classroom Notification</a></u></b></li> <li>● <b><u><a href="#">Home Tests Expiration Dates</a></u></b></li> </ul>	

### Exposure Notifications

DUSD strives to provide timely notifications of positive COVID-19 cases with on-campus exposures and/or those related to school-based activities, and will report information to appropriate individuals/groups as the District is informed of positive cases.

DUSD issues the following notices when we receive a report from a site that an employee or student has tested positive:

- **General/Site Notices to Staff & Authorized Representatives:** DUSD will send out an all staff notice when there is a case identified. This broad notice will not have specific details or information about case(s). This letter will inform employees that an individual was at a worksite during their infectious period.
- **Exposure Notifications for Staff:** Employees determined to be a close contact (per CDPH definition) of an individual who is positive or presumed positive will receive an email notification with next steps, instructions for potential quarantine and testing information.
- **Exposure Notifications for Students:** DUSD employs group tracing for students, a more rapid notification process which results in more individuals receiving a notification of possible exposure with next steps and testing information.

### Reporting, Protecting Confidential Information

All personal identifying information of COVID-19 cases or persons with COVID-19 symptoms, and any employee required medical records will be kept confidential unless disclosure is required or permitted by law.

## Outbreaks and School Closures

Each Covid-19 case is unique and will be evaluated based on its contact tracing. DUSD will conduct an investigation in order to identify and isolate all cases and identify, quarantine, and test contacts to prevent further transmission of COVID-19 at the school. DUSD will cooperate with any investigation as Public Health seeks to ascertain whether the confirmed cases had a common exposure. School closures will be done in consultation with Tulare County Public Health. DUSD will ensure the following have occurred prior to reopening:

- Cleaning and disinfection
- Public health investigation
- Consultation with Tulare County Public Health

## Vaccines for K-12 Schools:

CDPH recommends that all students and staff be immunized each fall against influenza unless contraindicated by personal medical conditions to help:

- Protect the school community.
- Reduce demands on health care facilities.
- Decrease illnesses that cannot be readily distinguished from COVID-19 and would therefore trigger extensive measures from the school and public health authorities.

As per CDPH, vaccination is currently the leading public health prevention strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic. People who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 are at low risk of symptomatic or severe infection.

To promote vaccination,

- Visit [vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov) to find out where teachers, staff, students, and their families can get vaccinated against COVID-19 in the community and promote COVID-19 vaccination locations near schools.

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

Dinuba Unified will maintain an effective communication plan for students, parents, and staff. DUSD will communicate via mail, email, and phone to inform parents of positive cases and high-risk exposures without releasing student or staff information.

Prior to the resumption of in-person instruction, families will receive the following communication:

- Symptoms - families will be reminded that any students who are demonstrating any COVID-19 symptoms to seek testing.

Dinuba Unified will also continue to use the DUSD website (Covid-19 tab), social media platforms, text messages, phone messaging, email, and mailings to communicate with parents on the status of the District and Schools. Student and staff confidentiality is of the utmost importance and personal information or other identifying information will not be revealed.