

Major themes and responses from the October 15, FCUSD Elementary Parents: Reopening Schools Information Night and Q&A

SCHOOL SCHEDULES

Why are schools starting in the flu season? Why can't elementary begin in January, after Winter Break?

We are very confident that our schools are going to be ready with all the health and safety precautions and retrofits necessary to welcome back our students safely on November 9. Furthermore, we are abiding by the guidance we received from [SB98](#) that, as soon as possible, we would bring back students in a hybrid in-person learning environment with proper health and safety measures in place, following guidelines set forth by Sacramento County Public Health and the California Department Public Health.

To address concerns that we are entering the cold and flu season, one of the things you can proactively do is get a flu shot. This is an important step to take in protecting ourselves. In fact, FCUSD in partnership with Sacramento County Public Health is hosting a free flu clinic on November 3 at Cordova High School from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Many of the steps we are taking to make schools a safer place in light of COVID-19 are going to make schools a safer place during cold and flu season as well; washing hands, wearing masks, social distancing. All of these steps will make us safer from the influenza virus as well as COVID-19.

To learn more about COVID-19 health and safety from medical professionals, we encourage you to listen and watch a health forum we presented on Tuesday, October 15 for our staff. That evening four area physicians, Dr. Kasirye and Dr. Owen from SCPH along with two local physicians, Dr. Babb and Dr. Cafarella, provided information and answered questions.

[Click here to view the Oct 13 FCUSD Staff: COVID Health and Safety Information Night and Q&A](#)

This is a personal family decision to make which is why we are offering families two choices, the Virtual Academy and the Hybrid model. It is the District's goal to minimize the disruption to students and staff as much as possible.

HEALTH & SAFETY MEASURES

How will classrooms be sanitized in between AM/PM cohorts?

Custodians are scheduled to sanitize all classrooms in between AM/PM cohorts, using Neutral Electrolyzed Water (NEW) solution and specialized sprayer equipment. To see what this looks like in action, please see this [VIDEO](#)

What counts as close contact?

According to the [CDC](#), close contact includes being within 6 feet of someone who has COVID-19 for a total of 15 minutes or more. For more information please visit the [CDC website](#)

It's cold and flu season, how will students who are sick be evaluated?

Students exhibiting any symptoms of illness will be referred to the health office staff for screening.

What are the protocols if a student or staff tests positive for COVID-19

FCUSD will follow the isolation and quarantine procedures as provided by public health officials. If positive cases in the school community are identified, FCUSD contract tracing staff will work with Sacramento County Public Health nurses to identify contacts and determine the appropriate course of action, such as a 14-day quarantine, cohort closure, and notifications.

Confirmed COVID-19 cases among students, teachers, or staff may necessitate the closure of a cohort, multiple cohorts, or the entire school to limit the spread of COVID-19 within the school community. Decisions about closure will be made with consultation from Sacramento County Public Health, which is based on the number of cases and the percentage of the school population that tests positive for COVID-19. Generally, a single confirmed case of COVID-19 will necessitate the closure of a cohort. When multiple cohorts are affected or at least 5 percent of students, teachers, and staff test positive for COVID-19, full school closure may be warranted.

What happens if the county cases start to surge, and we are moved back into Tier 1?

As per the guidance from Sacramento County Public Health, schools are not required to close if infection rates rise. The District has worked hard to implement the necessary measures to bring students back safely and will continue to monitor the situation. We may consider increased surveillance testing if county COVID-19 rates rise.

What if students refuse to wear a mask, and are masks mandatory?

Masks are required for all on campus. If there is an issue with non-compliance, those students may be enrolled in the Virtual Academy, per California Department of Education (CDE) guidelines. For those who have a medical reason that prevents them from wearing a mask, we ask that you contact your principal or our Health Office to submit a medical note from your doctor that states the medical reason your student is unable to wear a mask

VIRTUAL ACADEMY AND DISTANCE LEARNING

What will the Virtual Academy look like?

An alternative education program in which students and teachers will conduct all learning in a virtual environment. ~~This program will operate separately and independently from school sites and will be an additional, alternative educational option for students.~~

Students wishing to remain in the Distance Learning format, matched with teachers teaching in the Distance Learning format.

Goals:

- Least disruption possible
- **Keep students associated with Home School**
- Remain on the same general schedule currently used in Distance Learning

Please note: Additions in RED are recent updates to the description of the Virtual Academy

How will I know if my student's teacher will be in the Hybrid or Virtual Academy?

Staffing is currently being finalized and teacher status will be announced on October 21. On that same day, parents of elementary students will receive a follow-up survey, asking if they would like to choose the Hybrid model or Virtual Academy. The District will make every effort to keep a student with their current teacher.

If I begin in Hybrid but want to switch to the Virtual Academy, (or vice versa) will I be able to do that?

We want to be as flexible as possible without disrupting student learning. There may be parents who decide to keep their child in distance learning now but decide they want to transition their child to in-person instruction at a later time. We will make every attempt to make that happen as quickly and as smoothly as possible; however, due to staffing decisions and capacity at each school site, we may not be able to accommodate every request.