

# American Rescue Plan Act Elementary and Secondary School Relief Fund (ESSER III) Safe Return to In-Person Instruction Local Educational Agency Plan Template

## Background on ESSER

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARP) signed into law on March 11, 2021, provided nearly \$122 billion for the Elementary and Secondary School Relief Fund (ESSER). ARP ESSER, also known as ESSER III, funds are provided to State educational agencies in the same proportion as each State received under Title I-A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) in fiscal year (FY) 2020. The U.S. Department of Education (ED) published Interim Final Requirements (IFR) on April 22, 2021 requiring Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) receiving ESSER III funds to submit an LEA Plan for the Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services. If an LEA had already developed a plan for safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services prior to the enactment of ARP that meets the statutory requirements of section 2001(i) but did not address all of the requirements in the IFR, the LEA must revise and post its plan no later than six months after receiving its ESSER III funds. This applies even if an LEA has been operating full-time in-person instruction but does not apply to fully virtual schools and LEAs.

The IFR and ARP statute, along with other helpful resources, are located here:

- April 2021 IFR: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2021-04-22/pdf/2021-08359.pdf>
- ARP Act text: <https://www.congress.gov/117/bills/hr1319/BILLS-117hr1319enr.pdf>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) COVID-19 School Operation Guidance: [https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/operation-strategy.html#anchor\\_1616080023247](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/operation-strategy.html#anchor_1616080023247)
- ED COVID-19 Handbook Volume I: <https://www2.ed.gov/documents/coronavirus/reopening.pdf>
- ED COVID-19 Handbook Volume II: <https://www2.ed.gov/documents/coronavirus/reopening-2.pdf>
- ESEA Evidence-Based Guidance: <https://oese.ed.gov/files/2020/07/guidanceeusesinvestment.pdf>
- ED FAQs for ESSER and Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER): [https://oese.ed.gov/files/2021/05/ESSER.GEER\\_FAQs\\_5.26.21\\_745AM\\_FINALb0cd6833f6f46e03ba2d97d30aff953260028045f9ef3b18ea602db4b32b1d99.pdf](https://oese.ed.gov/files/2021/05/ESSER.GEER_FAQs_5.26.21_745AM_FINALb0cd6833f6f46e03ba2d97d30aff953260028045f9ef3b18ea602db4b32b1d99.pdf)

## Purpose of the Template

The IFR issued by ED outlines several requirements for all LEAs that receive ESSER III funds, including that LEAs have in place a plan for ensuring safety during in-person instruction (either in-progress or planned) as well as ensuring continuity of services should the LEA or one or more of its schools be required to close temporarily for COVID-19-related public health reasons in the future. LEAs who had a plan in place by March 11, 2021, which incorporated opportunity for public comment and was posted publicly have six months from the date their ESSER III Assurances were completed to update and revise the plans to meet those requirements. Examples of previous plans that may be allowable would be a completed Cal/OSHA or Assembly Bill 86 plan, as long as it meets the requirements previously stated. LEAs which did not have a statutorily compliant plan in place as of March 11, 2021, must create and post this plan within 30 days of completing their ESSER III Assurances.

If you have questions as to which category applies to your LEA, please contact [EmergencyServices@cde.ca.gov](mailto:EmergencyServices@cde.ca.gov). Plans are required for all LEAs, regardless of operating status, unless an LEA is fully virtual with no physical location. All plans must be reviewed, and, as appropriate, revised, at least every six months to incorporate new or revised CDC guidance and other changed factors.

This template has been created to assist LEAs in the creation of these plans and to ensure all required elements are met. The following requirements and assurances pertain to both the statutory requirements and the IFR published by ED. LEAs may provide any additional information they believe are helpful in assessing their plan. If you have any questions, please contact [EmergencyServices@cde.ca.gov](mailto:EmergencyServices@cde.ca.gov).

## LEA Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services

LEA Name:

Caruthers Unified School District

Option for ensuring safe in-person instruction and continuity of services:  
has developed a plan

1. Please choose one:

- The LEA had a plan, as of March 11, 2021, that is already compliant with the ARP statute and will review and, as appropriate, revise it every six months to take into consideration the additional requirements of the IFR; or

**NOTE: If your LEA already has a compliant plan as of March 11, 2021, and has assured such by checking the box above, then you may skip questions 2-4 and complete the Assurance and Contact sections.**

- The LEA has amended/created a plan compliant with the IFR using this template and has posted/will post it within 30 days of completing the ESSER III Assurances.

**NOTE: If checking the box above that you are using this template to meet the 30 day plan requirements, you must respond to each question in the template.**

Please note whether the LEA has a compliant plan and include a link to the plan, or acknowledge that the LEA is submitting a new plan and will post it within 30 days of receiving funds.

2. The LEA will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other school and LEA staff, and the extent to which it has adopted policies, and a description of any such policies, on each of the CDC's safety recommendations, including: universal and correct wearing of masks; modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing; handwashing and respiratory etiquette; cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation; contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments; diagnostic and screening testing; efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities; appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and coordination with State and local health officials.

Describe how the LEA will maintain, or continue to maintain, health and safety policies and procedures. Include a description of any adopted policies and procedures regarding the CDC's safety recommendations (or available LEA website links to such policies). Include descriptions of appropriate accommodations adopted and coordination efforts conducted with outside State and local health officials. Please include or describe current public health conditions, applicable State and local rules and restrictions, and other contemporaneous information that informs your decision-making process.

### FACE MASK REQUIREMENTS

K-12 students are required to mask indoors, with exemptions per CDPH face mask guidance. Adults in K-12 school settings are required to mask when sharing indoor spaces with students. Masks are optional outdoors for all in K-12 school settings. All Caruthers students and staff must wearing a face covering while indoors (unless alone) as a measure to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. "Face covering" means a surgical mask, a medical procedure mask, a respirator worn voluntarily, or a tightly woven fabric or non-woven material of at least two layers. A face covering has no visible holes or openings and must cover the nose and mouth. A face covering does not include a scarf, ski mask, balaclava, bandana, turtleneck, collar, or single layer of fabric.

Face coverings must be worn inside of Caruthers USD facilities. Employees may remove face coverings under the following circumstances: 1) when eating or drinking while maintaining six feet social distancing; 2) when not sharing common areas, rooms, or enclosed space with others; 3) when outdoors in public and can stay six feet away from others; and 4) when all employees present have presented evidence of a completed OVID-19 vaccination or negative test within the past 72 hours. Face coverings must be readily accessible and donned in the event any other person enters employee workspaces.

All Caruthers Unified Schools will provide a face coverings to students who inadvertently fail to bring a face covering to school to prevent unnecessary exclusions. Face coverings may be removed when outdoors. Employees should consider wearing a face covering outdoors when in crowded areas. Masking will be required for students and staff in crowded outdoor settings and for activities with close contact with others including outdoor rallies and outdoor school gatherings.

Each Caruthers USD school site will enforce the mask requirements. Refusal to correctly wear a mask will result in the removal of the individual from the learning environment. Caruthers Unified School District will offer alternative educational opportunities for students who are excluded from campus because they will not wear a face covering. Visitors must wear a face covering when entering and moving about schools and facilities. Visitors may remove face coverings when alone in a room.

Persons exempted from wearing a face covering due to a medical condition, must wear a non-restrictive alternative, such as a face shield with a drape on the bottom edge, as long as their condition permits it. Employee who are not fully vaccinated have the right to request an N95 respirator for voluntary use. Caruthers Unified will provide the respirator at no cost to employees and instructions on how to properly fit and wear the respirator. If employee does not request an N95 respirator, they must wear an approved face covering as defined above.

#### CHILD NUTRITION SERVICES

Caruthers USD encourages children to bring their own meals. Students will be served individually packaged meals through a grab and go kiosk system. When feasible, students will eat meals in classrooms instead of cafeterias while ensuring the safety of children with food allergies. Caruthers USD will ensure that students have access to clean drinking water other than through a drinking fountain, and food which is procured, stored, and served in a manner that reduces the likelihood of COVID-19 transmission and follows state and national guidelines for nutrition. Physical distancing will be maximized as much as possible while eating (especially indoors). Using additional spaces outside of the cafeteria for mealtime seating such as classrooms or the gymnasium can help facilitate distancing. Arrange for eating outdoors as much as feasible. Clean frequently touched surfaces. Surfaces that come in contact with food should be washed, rinsed, and sanitized before and after meals. Given very low risk of transmission from surfaces and shared objects, there is no need to limit food service approaches to single use items and packaged meals.

#### PHYSICAL DISTANCING

Recent evidence indicates that in-person instruction can occur safely without minimum physical distancing requirements when other mitigation strategies (e.g., masking) are implemented. This is consistent with CDC K-12 School Guidance.

The California Department of Public Health Return to School Guidance, dated July 12, 2021 removes the requirement for physical distancing student to student in the classroom setting as long as masking is implemented at the school. In compliance with CalOSHA regulations, all staff shall remain six feet apart from any

other staff member, student, parent, or visitor.

Students will maximize physical distancing as much as possible while eating, especially when eating indoors. Caruthers USD will use outdoor spaces and classrooms to help facilitate distancing.

When possible modify facilities to allow for distancing of at least 3 feet apart between students in classrooms in the following circumstances, where other prevention strategies are also strictly implemented.

Virtual group events, gatherings, or meetings, will be strongly encouraged. If virtual is not possible, social distancing will be required if events are held. All nonessential visitors, volunteers, and activities involving external groups or organizations will be prohibited by Caruthers USD – especially with individuals who are not from the local geographic area (e.g., community, town, city, county).

#### HAND HYGIENE RECOMMENDATIONS

Caruthers USD staff are encouraged to practice, teach, and reinforce washing hands, avoiding contact with one's eyes, nose, and mouth, and covering coughs and sneezes among students and staff. Promote hand washing throughout the day, especially before and after eating, after using the toilet, and after handling garbage, or removing gloves. Ensure adequate supplies to support healthy hygiene behaviors, including soap, tissues, not-ouch trash cans, face coverings, and hand sanitizers with at least 60 percent ethyl alcohol for staff and children who can safely use hand sanitizer.

#### STAYING HOME WHEN SICK RECOMMENDATIONS

Getting tested for COVID-19 when symptoms are consistent with COVID-19 will help with rapid contact tracing and prevent possible spread at schools. Staff members and students with symptoms of COVID-19 infection should not return for in-person instruction until they have met CDPH criteria to return to school for those with symptoms: At least 24 hours have passed since resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications; and other symptoms have improved; and they have a negative test for SARS-CoV-2, OR a healthcare provider has provided documentation that the symptoms are typical of their underlying chronic condition (e.g., allergies or asthma) OR a healthcare provider has confirmed an alternative named diagnosis (e.g., Streptococcal pharyngitis, Coxsackie virus), OR at least 10 days have passed since symptom onset.

#### VENTILATION GUIDELINES

For indoor spaces, ventilation will be optimized by following CDPH Guidance on Ventilation of Indoor Environments and Ventilation and Filtration to Reduce Long-Range Airborne Transmission of COVID-19 and Other Respiratory Infections: Considerations for Reopened Schools.

#### CLEANING & DISINFECTING

Indoor Spaces Indoor spaces will be disinfected when students and staff are not present. Indoor spaces are cleaned daily. High contact food service areas will be cleaned between uses. Our cleaning and disinfecting products are approved for use against COVID-19 and are on the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The list of EPA-approved products can be found [here](#). All product label instructions shall be followed by anyone using a disinfecting product, paying attention to appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and required product dwell time to effectively disinfect. In a school setting, anyone using a disinfecting product must have completed the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) training in accordance with SOP #833 – Integrated Pest Management. Disinfectants will not be applied on items that children might put in their mouths. Cleaning toys and other items used by children will be done with soap and water or an appropriate sanitizing solution.

Common area high-touch surfaces will be disinfected once a day; these areas include door handles and panic hardware, counters, handrails, elevator buttons, light switches, break room tables, microwaves, and refrigerator handles; the contracted custodial company will disinfect during the routine nighttime service. All office locations

will be disinfected nightly. At all office locations, health and sanitation stations with cleaning supplies, PPE and product use instructions are available to staff to clean work areas whenever desired.

All classrooms and offices will be cleaned and disinfected once a day to sufficiently remove potential virus that may be on surfaces. Disinfecting (using disinfectants on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency COVID-19 list) removes any remaining germs on surfaces, which further reduces any risk of spreading infection. If a facility has had a sick person with COVID-19 within the last 24 hours, Caruthers USD personnel will clean AND disinfect the spaces occupied by that person during that time.

Caruthers USD has developed a process to clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces (e.g., door handles, sink handles, drinking fountains) within our schools and on our school buses at least daily or between use as much as possible. Use of shared objects (e.g., gym or physical education equipment, art supplies, toys, games) will be limited when possible or cleaned between use. If you have any questions or would like further information, please feel free to contact our Maintenance Department.

#### TRANSPORTATION

Southwest Transportation Agency (STA) provides transportation services for the District. Their bus drivers will practice all safety actions and protocols as indicated for other staff (e.g., hand hygiene, cloth face coverings). STA will follow guidelines to clean and disinfect school buses and other transport vehicles, see guidance for bus transit operators.

Drivers will wear a face mask and conduct a verbal wellness check as students board the bus. If a student is symptomatic they will be seated at least 6 feet away from other students and driver and will be sent to the isolation areas upon arrival at school. All students must wear a face mask while on the bus. Students who do not have a face mask will be provided one upon entry. Hand sanitizer will be available for students to use at their school sites and encouraged to use prior to boarding the bus. A minimum of two windows will be open on the bus to increase air circulation. All buses that are in active service will be cleaned daily when students are not present. Virtual activities and events are encouraged in lieu of field trips, student assemblies, special performances, and school-wide parent meetings, as possible.

#### PROTECTION GUIDELINES

Employer Responsibilities:

- Extend grace and civility to all those you interact with while in the workplace
- Implement daily self-monitoring health screening processes for staff and students
- Provide PPE (including N95 for unvaccinated employees for voluntary use) and cleaning supplies for Caruthers Unified employees
- Post additional signage throughout Caruthers USD buildings and worksites to raise awareness regarding health and safety protocols (See Building Access and Building Common Area Usage Protocols)
- Ensure routine cleaning of frequently touched surfaces (See Disinfecting Protocol)
- Identify and evaluate COVID-19 hazards and investigate, respond, and correct these hazards in the workplace by utilizing the Injury and Illness Prevention Program (IIPP)
- When required, have COVID-19 testing available for staff and students

Employee Responsibilities:

- Extend grace and civility to all those you interact with while in the workplace
- Self-certify your health daily (See Health Screening Self-Certification Protocol)
- When required, wear face covering in accordance with the Facial Covering Protocol
- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom, before eating and after blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing; if soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based (60% or higher) hand sanitizer

- Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands
- If you are ill, stay home, except to get medical care, utilize your leave entitlements and return to work when symptom-free (See Return to Work/School After Illness Protocol)
- Cover your cough with a tissue or cough into your sleeve; throw tissue in the trash after use
- Maintain a clutter-free work surface and workstation for efficient and regular cleaning

## VACCINATIONS

Caruthers Unified recognizes that vaccination is effective at preventing COVID-19, protecting against both transmission and serious illness or death. Vaccinations are free to anyone who would like to receive them. To learn more about the different vaccinations available, go the Fresno County Department of Public Health website: <https://www.co.fresno.ca.us/departments/public-health/covid-19/covid-19-vaccine-information>. To find a vaccination clinic and to schedule an appointment, go to [www.myturn.ca.gov](http://www.myturn.ca.gov)

## STATE PUBLIC HEALTH ORDER VACCINE VERIFICATION FOR WORKERS IN SCHOOLS

(Issued 08/11/21)

All schools must verify vaccine status of all workers. Pursuant to the CDPH Guidance for Vaccine Records Guidelines & Standards, only the following modes may be used as proof of vaccination:

1. COVID-19 Vaccination Record Card (issued by the Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Disease Control & Prevention or WHO Yellow Card) which includes name of person vaccinated, type of vaccine provided and date last dose administered); OR
2. a photo of a Vaccination Record Card as a separate document; OR
3. a photo of the client's Vaccination Record Card stored on a phone or electronic device; OR
4. documentation of COVID-19 vaccination from a health care provider; OR
5. digital record that includes a QR code that when scanned by a SMART Health Card reader displays to the reader client name, date of birth, vaccine dates and vaccine type; OR
6. documentation of vaccination from other contracted employers who follow these vaccination records guidelines and standards.

In the absence of knowledge to the contrary, Caruthers USD will accept the documentation presented as valid. CUSD has plan in place for tracking verified worker vaccination status. Records of vaccination verification will be made available, upon request, to the local health jurisdiction for purposes of case investigation. Workers who are not fully vaccinated, or for whom vaccine status is unknown or documentation is not provided, will be considered unvaccinated.

## TESTING REQUIREMENTS :

1. Asymptomatic unvaccinated or incompletely vaccinated workers are required to undergo diagnostic screening testing.
2. Workers may be tested with either antigen or molecular tests to satisfy this requirement, but unvaccinated or incompletely vaccinated workers must be tested at least once weekly with either PCR testing or antigen testing. Any PCR (molecular) or antigen test used must either have Emergency Use Authorization by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration or be operating per the Laboratory Developed Test requirements by the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.
3. Unvaccinated or incompletely vaccinated workers must also observe all other infection control requirements, and are not exempted from the testing requirement even if they have a medical contraindication to vaccination, since they are still potentially able to spread the illness. Previous history of COVID-19 from which the individual recovered more than 90 days earlier, or a previous positive antibody test for COVID-19, do not waive this requirement for testing.
4. Schools with workers required to undergo workplace diagnostic screening testing should have a plan in place for tracking test results and conducting workplace contact tracing, and must report results to local public health departments. There are IT platforms available that can facilitate these processes for schools.

## HEALTH SCREENING SELF-CERTIFICATION PROTOCOL

Caruthers Unified encourages employees, students and visitors to self-certify their health prior to entering offices and school settings as a preventive measure to mitigate the spread COVID-19 and to promote good health. On a daily basis, all Caruthers Unified employees should be mindful of the following symptoms prior to entering their assigned work location:

1. Fever and/or chills (100.4 degrees or higher)
2. A new or worsening cough
3. Shortness of breath
4. Loss of taste and/or smell
5. Congestion and/or runny nose
6. Sore throat
7. Fatigue
8. Muscle and/or body aches
9. Headache
10. Nausea/vomiting and/or diarrhea
11. Exposure to COVID-19 in the past 14 days

If the parent/guardian answers “no” to all questions, they can allow their child to come to school. If the parent/guardian answers “yes” to any of the questions, they will need to stay home and consult with their doctor and report illness to the school absence line.

When the student does not appear to be well or states they do not feel well during the school day, the student will be evaluated by a school nurse/designated staff member.

If symptoms are secondary to an underlying disease(s) or condition(s), such as allergies, asthma, migraine headaches, or dietary concern(s), and have not worsened compared to baseline, then the employee can continue to work and follow precautions as stated above. If you have new or worsening symptoms, stay home and contact Human Resources at 559.495.6401 and advise your supervisor immediately.

## EMPLOYEE & STUDENT COVID-19 EXPOSURE PLAN

The Caruthers Unified School District recognizes the importance of responding quickly and appropriately to possible or confirmed COVID-19 exposure to an employee or student. Therefore, CUSD has created the following employee and student exposure response plan and flowcharts.

## PROCESS FOR EMPLOYEES TO REPORT COVID-19 RELATED ILLNESS

Caruthers Unified has established a First Notice Reporting process to ensure all employees report a COVID-19 Related Illness in a consistent, timely manner. Employees are expected to report a COVID-19 Related Illness to Fowler Unified when:

- You have experienced COVID-19 related symptoms, OR
  - You were alerted that you are considered a close contact to a positive COVID-19 case,
- OR
- You have tested positive for COVID-19, or after being identified as a close contact are awaiting COVID-19 test results.

Employees are expected to follow the steps as indicated below:

1. Promptly notify your immediate supervisor that you are going to report a COVID-19 related illness.
2. Immediately report all COVID-19 Related Illnesses as indicated above by phone.
3. Provide the following information when you email or call to ensure timely reporting:
  - a. First and Last Name
  - b. Your Email and Phone Number

- c. Reason for Report (e.g., experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, close contact, tested positive for COVID-19, or awaiting COVID-19 test results)
  - d. Department
  - e. Actual Work Location (e.g., worksite and room number, if applicable)
  - f. Actual date you last worked in-person
  - g. Actual date you last teleworked
  - h. COVID-19 vaccination status
4. Human Resources will answer your call and assist in determining appropriate next steps.

#### PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT GUIDELINES

PPE specific to COVID-19 response shall be distributed as needed. Departments with PPE needs not specifically related to COVID-19 response shall continue to purchase and provide the needed PPE.

**SURGICAL FACE MASK:** Who should use: Designated positions such as: Health Technicians, LVNs, custodial staff, ill persons, and staff who come into routine contact with others. When to use: When required by state or local health order and in accordance with the FCSS Face Covering Protocol. Typical tasks necessitating use: Employee presence in an essential facility, nursing services (nurses providing nursing services/procedures, masking any student or staff that are showing signs and symptoms of respiratory illness).

**N95 RESPIRATORS** Who should use: Health Technicians, LVNs, and employees who are not fully vaccinated and would like to use one voluntarily. When to use: When performing aerosolizing medical procedures, when using products that would require respiratory protection according to the Safety Data Sheet, and for unvaccinated employees who want to voluntarily use them. Typical tasks necessitating use: tracheostomy suctioning, performing nebulizer treatments, or when handling concentrated cleaning and disinfecting products, as required by the Safety Data Sheet.

**FACE SHIELDS/EYE PROTECTION** Who should use: Custodians, teachers, paraprofessionals, Health Technicians, or anyone trained to do specialized healthcare procedures and any employee in accordance with the Face Covering Protocol. When to use: When splash protection is required or in accordance with the Face Covering Protocol. Typical tasks necessitating use: providing first aid, performing specialized healthcare procedures and cleaning contaminated areas and while doing medical aerosol procedures such as oral or tracheostomy suctioning or nebulizer treatments.

**LEVEL 3 MEDICAL-GRADE PROTECTIVE GOWNS:** Who should use: LVNs. When to use: Aerosol generating procedures, working in isolation rooms. Typical tasks necessitating use: tracheostomy suctioning or nebulizer treatments.

#### CRITERIA FOR RETURN TO WORK/SCHOOL AFTER FEVER OR ILLNESS

Staff and students may return to work/school when the following criteria is met:

1. At least 24 hours have passed since resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications; and
2. Other symptoms have improved

Staff members or students should have a negative test for SARS-CoV-2, OR healthcare provider documentation that symptoms are typical of the staff member's or student's underlying chronic condition (e.g., allergies or asthma) OR healthcare provider confirmation of an alternative named diagnosis (e.g., Streptococcal pharyngitis, Coxsackie virus).



## CRITERIA FOR RETURN TO WORK/SCHOOL AFTER CONFIRMED POSITIVE COVID-19 TEST

In accordance with the Fresno County Department of Public Health (FCDPH), students and staff may return to work/school after a positive COVID-19 test, as soon as the following criteria is met:

- If tested positive for COVID-19 and ASYMPTOMATIC, they can return to work/school:
  - o Time-based strategy. Can return to work if:  
10 days have passed since the date of their first positive COVID-19 diagnostic test, assuming they have not subsequently developed symptoms since their positive test. If they develop symptoms, then the symptom-based (and in some special cases test-based strategy in consultation with physician/infectious disease specialist) should be used.
  - o Time-based strategy for severely immunocompromised. Can return to work if:  
20 days have passed since the date of their first positive COVID-19 diagnostic test, assuming they have not subsequently developed symptoms since their positive test. If they develop symptoms, then the symptom-based (and in some special cases test-based strategy in consultation with physician/infectious disease specialist) should be used.
- Tested positive for COVID-19 and SYMPTOMATIC, they can return to school/work:
  - o Symptom-based strategy. Can return to work if:  
At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared and at least 1 day (24 hours) have passed since last fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and Other symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath, body aches, etc.) have improved.
  - o Symptom-based strategy for severe to critical illness or who are severely immunocompromised. Can return to work if:  
At least 20 days have passed since symptoms first appeared, and  
At least 1 day (24 hours) have passed since last fever without the use of fever-reducing medications, and  
Other symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath, body aches, etc.) have improved.

## CRITERIA FOR RETURN TO WORK/SCHOOL AFTER EXPOSURE TO A CONFIRMED POSITIVE COVID-19 PERSON

Fully vaccinated persons (staff and students) do not need to quarantine if exposed to a confirmed positive COVID-19 case. Fully vaccinated persons who were exposed to a confirmed positive COVID-19 case should continue to self-monitor for symptoms and stay home if symptoms develop.

Not fully vaccinated staff members who are asymptomatic close contacts may discontinue quarantine after Day 10 from the date of last exposure without testing. If close contact develops symptoms, the close contact will need to isolate for 10 days from the start of symptoms. See Criteria for Return to Work/School After a Confirmed Positive COVID-19 Test above for guidance.

Not fully vaccinated students exposed to a COVID-19 positive while indoors, and both the not fully vaccinated student and the positive student or staff are MASKED, the exposed student can use a MODIFIED 10-DAY QUARANTINE. These students may remain in school if they:

- Are asymptomatic
- Continue to appropriately mask, as required
- Undergo at least twice weekly testing during the 10-day quarantine
- Continue to quarantine for all extracurricular activities at school, including sports, and activities within the community setting.

Not fully vaccinated students exposed to a COVID-19 positive while indoors, and both or either of the persons are UNMASKED, the not fully vaccinated student must:

- Quarantine can end after Day 10 from the date of last exposure without testing OR

- Quarantine can end after Day 7 if a diagnostic specimen is collected after Day 5 from the date of last exposure and tests negative.
- The student released from quarantine earlier than 14 days from the day exposed, asymptomatic close contacts will need to continue daily self-monitoring for symptoms and wear masks as required through day 14

NOTE: If any quarantine student becomes symptomatic, they must follow the guidelines outlined in “Criteria for Return to work/School After Illness” section above before returning to school.

#### ROLE OF SCHOOL NURSE AND/OR HEALTH STAFF/CONTACT TRACER

Once alerted to a fever or respiratory illness in a student or staff, a member of the health staff or contact tracer should communicate with the individual to obtain information about onset of symptoms, specific symptoms and any other pertinent information regarding the illness.

- Health staff should call student or staff daily to check on symptoms and to offer support to the ill individual.
- Once ill individual meets criteria listed above, the school nurse will clear the student or staff member to return to work/school.

#### Disinfecting after a confirmed COVID-19 case:

After identification of a confirmed COVID-19 positive case in an office or school setting within the previous 24 hours, cleaning and disinfecting of the spaces where the case spent significant time will be arranged. In accordance with the COVID-19 and Reopening In-Person Instruction Framework & Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools in California, 2020-2021 School Year dated January 14, 2021, this will be done after staff and students have left for the day. The space does not need to be closed to staff and students prior to the cleaning and disinfection.

Should the Fresno County Department of Public Health (FCDPH) or Caruthers Unified staff become aware that an outbreak may be underway, Caruthers Unified will consult with the FCDPH on the need for additional cleaning and disinfecting.

#### SYSTEM FOR COMMUNICATION

Caruthers Unified uses the following protocol to communicate to stakeholders:

- Reporting of COVID-19 symptoms following the First Notice Reporting Flowchart
- How to identify and report symptoms and hazards that employees may be exposed to within the workplace without fear of reprisal using the procedure outlined in the IIPP
- Caruthers Unified procedures or policies for accommodating employees with medical or other conditions that put them at increased risk of severe COVID-19 illness
- Caruthers Unified procedures on access to COVID-19 testing including asymptomatic, symptomatic or response testing

In compliance with AB685, the CUSD is required to provide timely employee and union notification when:

- a) positive COVID-19 test or medical diagnosis from licensed medical provider;
- b) ordered quarantine from public health official; or
- c) death from COVID-19.

If a positive case is identified in the workplace, employees will be notified without disclosing the name of the individual or any personally identifiable information about the

person to ensure compliance with privacy laws. For more information on this subject, please visit the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

- Employee notification will be sent to department/program employees by Human Resources.
- Parent/Guardian notification will be sent by department/program administration/designee.
- When applicable, Union notification will be sent by Human Resources.

3. The LEA will ensure continuity of services, including but not limited to services to address students' academic needs and students' and staff social, emotional, mental health and other needs, which may include student health and foodservices.

Describe how the LEA will ensure continuity of services in case isolation, quarantine, or future school closures are required, including how the LEA will meet the needs of students with disabilities and English learners.

District and school staff are committed to supporting students' social emotional wellness and offering resources to ensure students transition back to school smoothly. Support may include social emotional learning, building relationships, community building activities, and increased access to mental health/wellness services. Families and schools will need to work together to check how students are feeling and assess their individual needs to provide the support our students need during these challenging times.

#### FAMILY RESOURCES

The Student Service Department provides a wide variety of resources to help families with their social emotional needs. Parents can access Student Support Specialists by calling the Student Support Services Department at 559.495.6401.

- COVID-19 awareness and training in spread prevention
- Assistance with enrollment, transfers, and all registration needs
- Guidance on applying for Medi-Cal and CalFresh renewals
- Community resources including food, clothing, utility assistance, and low income housing
- Tutoring services
- PreSchool
- Mental health services including counseling and referrals to outside agencies

4. The LEA sought public comments in the development of its plan and took those comments into account in the development of its plan.

Describe the LEA's policy or practice that provided the public with an opportunity to provide comments and feedback and the collection process. Describe how any feedback was incorporated into the development of the plan.

The District engaged stakeholders throughout the 2020 summer months to discuss alternatives for reopening schools and delivering instruction. A "Frequently Asked Questions" page was posted on the District's website. Once the decision was made by the Governor to begin the 2020-21 school year in Fresno County using a strictly distance learning model, efforts focused primarily on input regarding how that might be most effectively implemented to meet the safety needs of students, teachers, other staff, and stakeholder groups. Stakeholder groups were asked to provide input regarding the challenges for ensuring safety, following state and federal guidelines, while also insuring that students are able to maximize learning in welcoming environments.

During meetings with stakeholders, participants (migrant, ELD, homeless parents, board members, teachers, classified, and students) were asked to provide:

- Clarifying questions and/or comments.
- Input/suggestions for addressing safety concerns.

- Concerns and suggestions for safely providing student meals.

Translation was provided orally at DELAC meetings; school DELAC representatives took the information back to ELAC for discussion and input.

In addition, the LEA provides the following assurances:

- The LEA has made (in the case of statutorily compliant plans) or will make (in the case of new plans) its plan publicly available no later than 30 days after receiving its ARP ESSER allocation.
  - o Please insert link to the plan:  
[https://www.caruthers.k12.ca.us/files/page/8617/2021\\_Safe\\_Return\\_to\\_In\\_Person\\_Instruction\\_and\\_Continuity\\_Plan\\_Caruthers\\_Unified\\_School\\_District\\_20210927.pdf](https://www.caruthers.k12.ca.us/files/page/8617/2021_Safe_Return_to_In_Person_Instruction_and_Continuity_Plan_Caruthers_Unified_School_District_20210927.pdf)
- The LEA sought public comment in the development of its plan and took those public comments into account in the development of its plan.
- The LEA will periodically review and, as appropriate revise its plan, at least every six months.
- The LEA will seek public comment in determining whether to revise its plan and, if it determines revisions are necessary, on the revisions it makes to the plan.
- If the LEA revises its plan, it will ensure its revised plan addresses each of the aspects of safety currently recommended by the Centers for Disease Control(CDC), or if the CDC has revised its guidance, the updated safety recommendations at the time the LEA is revising its plan.
- The LEA has created its plan in an understandable and uniform format.
- The LEA's plan is, to the extent practicable, written in a language that parent can understand, or if not practicable, orally translated.
- The LEA will, upon request by a parent who is an individual with a disability, provide the plan in an alternative format accessible to that parent.

The following person or persons is/are the appropriate contact person for any questions or concerns about the aforementioned plan.

Please list name(s), title(s), address, county, and contact information for the person or persons responsible for developing, submitting, and amending the LEA plan.

Marla Dominguez, Principal and Orin Hirschhorn, Superintendent PO Box 127, #1 Tiller Ave. Caruthers, CA 93609 Fresno County.