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California Department of Public Health



GAVIN NEWSOM
Governor

**COVID-19 and Reopening of In-Person Learning for Elementary Education
Waiver Notice to the California Department of Public Health (CDPH)**
(for use by Local Health Jurisdictions (LHJs))

August 3, 2020

Note: CDPH recommends that elementary schools within jurisdictions with 14-day case rates more than two times the threshold to be on the County Monitoring List (>200 cases/100,000 population) should not be considered for a waiver to re-open in-person instruction.

Instructions:

- Notice of all school or school district waivers proposed to be granted by a local health officer using this form should be sent to CDPH.
- For technical assistance regarding a waiver application, please contact CDPH.
- **Submit waiver notices and requests for technical assistance at this email address: K6Waiver@cdph.ca.gov.**
- Please do not submit any of your supporting documentation with this form.
- Submission of this document serves as your consultation with CDPH.
- CDPH will acknowledge receipt and follow up if there are any questions or concerns. If you have not received a further response within three business days of submission, you may approve or deny the waiver application consistent with the justification and guidance below.

Date of Application:

LHJ Name:

LHJ Contact:

Public Health Officer (If Not LHJ Contact):

Email:

Phone Number:

Justification: Based on the current best available scientific evidence, COVID-related risks in schools serving elementary-age students (grades TK-6) are lower than and different from the risks to staff and to students in schools serving older students. In particular, there appears to be lower risk of child-to-child or child-to-adult transmission in children under age 12, and the risk of infection and serious illness in elementary school children is particularly low.

CDPH Director's Office, MS 0500 | P.O. Box 997377 | Sacramento,
CA 95899-7377
(916) 558-1700 | (916) 558-1762 (fax)
Internet Address: www.cdph.ca.gov



There are health-related risks for children who are not provided in-person instruction, including lower rates of immunizations, higher rates of undetected child abuse and neglect, and other negative indicators of public health and wellbeing.

Guidance:

- Consistent with state law directing school districts to “offer in-person instruction to the greatest extent possible” (Ed. Code § 43504), local health officers may allow in-person elementary instruction for grades TK-6 to proceed even in counties subject to state monitoring if public health and safety guidance is implemented.
- Elementary in-person instruction must be provided in small, stable cohorts.
- Local health officers may conditionally grant an application with limits on the number of elementary schools allowed to re-open or allow re-opening in phases to monitor for any impact on the community.
- Local health officers in counties on the County Monitoring List within the prior 14 days must consult with CDPH (via submission of this form) before approving a waiver application from a district or school.
- **The local health officer must confirm that they have considered the following:**

Health & Safety

- Local health guidance, including appropriate mandatory requirements consistent with CDPH guidance
- Safety plans and availability of appropriate PPE, as recommended by the local health officer and CDPH guidance, for all elementary teachers and staff who will be involved in in-person instruction
- Availability of public health & school resources for COVID-19 investigation and response

Local Epidemiological Data & Health Care Capacity

- Current new case rate, testing % positivity trends, and the number and degree of indicators above thresholds to be on the monitoring list
- Local hospitalization trends and hospital capacity
- Any other local conditions or data contributing to inclusion on the monitoring list (*e.g.*, out of jurisdiction hospitalizations, enclosed outbreaks, *etc.*)

Testing

- Availability of testing resources within the community and, as applicable, via employee health plans to provide access to periodic testing to all elementary teachers and staff, with reasonable turn-around times

Other Consideration(s)

- The extent to which the school, school district, or system of private schools has consulted with relevant labor, community, and parent organizations, as applicable.

- _____

Please list below the waiver applicant name(s), school name(s), grade levels served, enrollment numbers, and the local health officer’s determination regarding the request:

<u>Waiver Applicant</u>	<u>School Name</u>	<u>Grade Levels</u>	<u>Enrollment</u>	<u>Approved or Denied</u>

