



Elementary School Waiver Application Empire Union School District

Background Information

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) placed Stanislaus County on its monitoring list and is currently in Tier I – Purple – Widespread community transmission of COVID-19 under new criteria for safely reopening California’s economy established through the Blueprint for a Safer Community. This data tracking system was launched on July 17, 2020.

The Empire Union School District, like all public and private school systems in Stanislaus County, began its school year utilizing a ‘distance learning’ model of instruction.

Under the Blueprint, schools in counties that are in Tier 1 – Purple – Widespread must receive a waiver to reopen for in-person instruction in grades TK-6.

Name of Applicant

Empire Union School District

School Type:

- Traditional Public School
- Charter School
- Private, Independent, or Faith-Based School

Number of schools: Five (5)

Total Enrollment: 2,273 (TK-6)

Capistrano Elementary – Enrollment 473

Empire Elementary – Enrollment 373

Hughes Elementary – 527

Sipherd Elementary – 454

Stroud Elementary - 436

Superintendent (or equivalent) Name: David E. Garcia

Address:

116 North McClure Road
Modesto, CA 95357

Grades/Number of Students Proposed to be Reopened:

TK 1st 2nd 5th 6th

Number of Students Proposed to return upon reopening:

50% capacity which allows the District to maintain 6 feet of social distancing in TK-6 classrooms.

Date of Proposed Reopening: No sooner than November 2, 2020. May be later than November 2, 2020, due to the following two factors: 1) COVID-19 infection rates within Stanislaus County; and 2) the time needed to thoroughly plan and implement the EUSD reopening plan.

Name of Person Completing Application: David E. Garcia

Phone Number: (209) 521-2800

Email: dgarcia@empire.k12.ca.us

Signature: *D. E. Garcia*

Date: *10.2.20*

I. Consultation

Please confirm consultation with the following groups:

Labor Organization

Name of Organization(s) and Date(s) Consulted:

Empire Teacher Association (ETA)

Classified Employees Committee (CEC)

California School Employees Association (CSEA Chapter #850)

- **Background:** The Empire Union School District (EUSD) educators and leaders have spent the last several months diligently collaborating and preparing the best possible educational options for our students, while keeping safety as our top priority. Together we conducted numerous meetings and have reviewed nearly 16,000 responses from staff and family surveys and staff input sessions. Our team has taken the input from stakeholders, the guidance from state and local health and education agencies, and collaborated with the Empire Union School District Board of education to offer a comprehensive 2020-2021 School Opening and Safety Protocols for all staff and students.

Empire Union School District is committed to providing a rigorous and quality instructional program for our students, while ensuring a safe environment for students, staff, and community. We realize our community deserves a variety of educational options and we are committed to providing choices for families and staff during the pandemic. Our plan includes the appropriate safety precautions and supplies as well as a clear outline of our educational options for both a traditional pathway and a 100% distance learning pathway. Our team and Board of Education have worked hard to provide two pathways for students allowing families to make a choice they believe is best for their child(ren).

If the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Elementary Waiver was approved, we would begin the elementary in-person pathway in a hybrid setting.

- **July 2020:** Since the CDPH Elementary Waiver was referenced in July, we began engaging our certificated and classified association leaders on the topic. We have discussed the elementary waiver

with our certificated association, Empire Teachers Association (ETA) leadership and our two classified association, leaders, California School Employee Association (CSEA) and Classified Employee

Committee (CEC) at various formal and informal meetings in July and August. Additionally, the elementary waiver was discussed specifically with ETA leadership on July 23, and at weekly district management team meetings throughout July and August.

On July 2 and July 14 opportunities were provided for input at public Board of Education meetings.

- **August 2020:** Due to guidance from California Governor Gavin Newsome, the Empire Union School District began school on August 10 in a 100% Distance Learning Model. When CDPH released the waiver template, we scheduled a special meeting with ETA leadership on August 24 to go over various aspects of an Elementary Waiver and to solicit input. That meeting was attended by nearly 70 out of 160 certificated staff members. On August 26, an email was sent to all district staff to inform them of the elementary waiver, the option of submitting an elementary school waiver, and the process required to submit an elementary school waiver. The District communicated to staff our intentions of exploring and considering the CDPH elementary waiver. That email indicated, 'We recognize the significant impact school closures have on our EUSD community and within Stanislaus County. We owe it to all of our students, parents, and staff to consider applying for a reopening waiver when we are confident that we are receiving accurate reporting data and the COVID-19 infection rate has stabilized and continues to trend downward towards our county being removed from the 'Watch List'. Moving forward, next week you can expect a 'Reopening Waiver Input Survey'. Please take the time to complete the survey which will help guide us in formulating the content and context needed within any potential reopening waiver.'

On August 6 and August 13 opportunities were provided for input at public Board of Education meetings.

- **September 2020:** The Reopening Elementary Waiver input survey was sent to all staff on September 4. The survey included questions specific to an elementary waiver such as: 1) Should EUSD apply for an elementary waiver while Stanislaus County is within the Purple – Wide Spread Tier?; 2) Identify the three components within an elementary waiver that you think is most important; 3) When EUSD is able to return students to campus' via a waiver, which instructional model would you prefer?; 4) If students were to return to campus' in a hybrid model, which hybrid configuration would you prefer? 5) What safety assurances do you need from EUSD when student's return to campus? 6) What advice to you have for EUSD when preparing plans to reopen schools safely, systematically, and methodically for the health and safety of students and staff? At the regular Board Meeting on September 10, the EUSD Board of Education received a detailed report, preliminary survey findings, and elementary waiver progression update from the Superintendent.
- **October 1:** During our regular scheduled Board of Education Meeting, Superintendent, David E. Garcia gave a presentation on the CDPH Elementary Waiver draft. The presentation was over 60 minutes in length and time was allowed for questions from the Board.

Empire Teachers Association (ETA)

ETA Survey Results: The survey closed on September 18 and approximately 53% of certificated staff completed the survey. The three components of a waiver certificated staff felt was most important were face coverings and other protective gear, physical distancing, and student cohorts (how students will be kept in small stable groups). Certificated staff preferred, by a slim margin, bringing back groups of grade levels (TK-1, 2-3, 4-6) over bringing back single grade levels (TK, K, 1, 2, 3, etc.). The hybrid model preferred by certificated staff for the return of students was synchronous two days per week at school - asynchronous two days a week at home – one day per week distance learning. The assurances certificated staff wanted most from EUSD when returning students to campus' was disinfecting of facilities daily, Stanislaus County being in Tier 2 – Red – Substantial, and adherence to social distancing inside and outside the classroom.

Classified Employees Committee (CEC) and California School Employees Association (CSEA #850)

Classified Staff Survey Results: The survey closed on September 18 and approximately 33% of classified staff completed the survey. The three most important components within a reopening waiver were cleaning and disinfecting, face coverings and other protective gear, and physical distancing. The assurances classified staff wanted most from EUSD when returning students to campus was pre-screening of students and staff, disinfecting of facilities, and Stanislaus County being in Tier 2 – Red – Substantial

On September 23, staff were sent an email informing them of the elementary waiver input survey results and informing them that EUSD would be preparing a reopening waiver draft for the Board of Education to consider approving submission on October 1.

On September 10, opportunity was provided for input at public Board of Education meeting.

On September 30, the District met with our ETA negotiation team to discuss and consult on several items, including the CDPH elementary waiver.

Meetings are being scheduled in late September or early October, with CSEA leadership and CEC leadership to discuss and consult on several items, including the CDPH elementary waiver.

- **October 1:** During our regular scheduled Board of Education Meeting, Superintendent, David E. Garcia gave a presentation on the CDPH Elementary Waiver draft. The presentation was over 60 minutes in length and time was allowed for questions from the Board.

Parent and Community Organizations

Name of Organization(s) and Date(s) Consulted:

All Parents and Families within the Empire Union School District

- **July 2020:** Since the CDPH Elementary Waiver was referenced in July, we began engaging our parents and families on the topic.
- **August 2020:** Due to guidance from California Governor Gavin Newsome, the Empire Union School District began school on August 10 in a 100% Distance Learning Model. When CDPH released the waiver template, on August 26, a letter was sent to parents and families to inform them of the elementary waiver, the option of submitting an elementary school waiver, and the process required to submit an elementary school waiver. The District communicated to parents and families our intentions of exploring and considering the CDPH elementary waiver. That letter indicated, 'We recognize the significant impact school closures have on our EUSD community and within Stanislaus County. We owe it to all of our students, parents, and staff to consider applying for a reopening waiver when we are confident that we are receiving accurate reporting data and the COVID-19 infection rate has stabilized and continues to trend downward towards our county being removed from the 'Watch List'. Moving forward, next week you can expect a 'Reopening Waiver Input Survey'. Please take the time to complete the survey which will help guide us in formulating the content and context needed within any potential reopening waiver.'
- **September 2020:** The Reopening Elementary Waiver input survey was sent to all parents and families on September 4. The survey included questions specific to an elementary waiver such as: 1) Should EUSD apply for an elementary waiver while Stanislaus County is within the Purple – Wide Spread Tier?; 2) Identify the three components within an elementary waiver that you think is most important; 3) When EUSD is able to return students to campus' via a waiver, which instructional model would you prefer?; 4) If students were to return to campus' in a hybrid model, which hybrid configuration would you prefer? 5) What safety assurances to you need from EUSD when student's return to campus? 6) What advice to you have for EUSD when preparing plans to reopen schools safely, systematically, and methodically for the health and safety of students and staff? At the regular Board Meeting on September 10, the EUSD Board of Education received a detailed report, preliminary survey findings, and elementary waiver progression update from the Superintendent.

Parent / Families Survey Results: The survey closed on September 18 and approximately 42% of parents / families completed the survey. The three components of a waiver parents / families felt was most important were cleaning and disinfecting, face coverings and other protective gear, and health screenings for students and staff. 40.99% of parents / families want their child(ren) to continue distance learning should students return to campus' via an elementary waiver. If and/or when EUSD is able to return students to campus via an elementary waiver, parents / families preferred to bring back all grade levels rather than single or groups of grade levels. The hybrid model preferred by parents / families for the return of students was synchronous two days per week at school - asynchronous two days a week at home – one day per week distance learning. The assurances parents / families wanted most from EUSD when returning students to campus was disinfecting of facilities, frequent hand-washing, and pre-screening of students and staff upon arrival at schools.

- **September 23:** Parents were sent a letter informing them of the elementary waiver input survey results and informing them that EUSD would be preparing a reopening waiver draft for the Board of Education to consider approving submission on October 1.
- **October 1:** During our regular scheduled Board of Education Meeting, Superintendent, David E. Garcia gave a presentation on the CDPH Elementary Waiver draft. The presentation was over 60 minutes in length and time was allowed for questions from the Board.

I. Elementary School Reopening Plans

Empire Union School District (EUSD) Reopening Plan:

- a. EUSD will reopen using a two-day hybrid model. In a Hybrid Learning Model students will be divided into two groups (Group A or Group B).
 - Group A students will attend school each week on Mondays and Wednesdays for in-person instruction. Group A students will remain home on Tuesdays and Thursdays for distance learning which includes a minimum of 30 minutes of daily live interaction.
 - Group B students will attend school each week on Tuesdays and Thursdays for in-person instruction. Group B students will remain home on Mondays and Wednesdays for distance learning which includes with a minimum of 30 minutes of daily live interaction.
 - Both groups, A and B, will remain home on Fridays for distance learning in adherence with SB 98.
 - Teachers will continue to plan and implement a standards based hybrid program of study, employing a variety of instructional techniques and instructional materials that meet the individual needs, interests and abilities of the students which includes synchronous and asynchronous learning for students participating within the hybrid learning model and in adherence to SB 98.
- b. Students who choose to not return to campus for on-site learning may continue to participate in the EUSD Distance Learning program with daily live interaction provided by a fully credentialed teacher.
- c. The hybrid model allows for a soft reopening up to 50% capacity.
- d. 50% capacity allows the District to maintain 6 feet of social distancing in TK-6 classrooms.

General Virus Conditions for Waiver Application: The metrics below apply specific to Stanislaus County.

Tiered Framework Metrics				
Measures	Tier 1 Widespread	Tier 2 Substantial	Tier 3 Moderate	Tier 4 Minimal
New cases/100,000 population per day (7 day average; 7 day lag)	> 7	4 - 7	1 - 3.9	< 1
Testing % Positivity (7 day average; 7 day lag)	> 8%	5 - 8%	2 - 4.9%	< 2%

Stanislaus County

Measures	8/11/2020	8/18/2020	8/31/2020	9/8/2020	9/15/2020	9/22/2020	9/29/2020
	Tier 1 Widespread						
New cases/100,000 population per day (7 day average; 7 day lag)	?	?	14.5	13.1	9.6	7.5	6.9
Adjusted Case Rate for Tier Assignment	?	?	14.5	14.1	9.4	7.6	7.2
Testing % Positivity (7 day average; 7 day lag)	?	?	12.5%	10.3%	5.6%	5.5%	4.7%

2. General Virus Precautions Practiced by the EUSD:

Cleaning and Disinfection: How shared surfaces will be regularly cleaned and disinfected and how use of shared items will be minimized.

- Hand sanitizer is available for all students and staff upon entering campus
- All students and staff will wash/clean their hands multiple times throughout the day using frequency guidance.
- Hand sanitizer dispensers are available in every classroom and common area on campus.
- Schools will follow disinfection guidelines developed by Stanislaus County Public Health for classrooms, workspaces, outdoor spaces, and playgrounds, etc.
- School facilities utilized by students or staff will be disinfected daily
- A daily cleaning and disinfecting schedule has been created and posted in multiple locations throughout each school site in order to avoid both under and overuse of cleaning products.
- A CloroxPro Electrostatic Sprayer will be utilized for daily disinfecting of high touch surfaces such as: desks, chairs, tables, sinks, door handles; handrails, drinking fountains; sink handles; restroom surfaces; toys; games; art supplies; instructional materials; playground equipment, seats on bus, keyboards / computers, headsets, copy machines.
- District staff has ensured that HVAC systems are functioning properly, maximize air exchanges per hour, maximize outdoor air, and are maintained to manufacturer's recommendations.
- Each classrooms' air system are equipped with a Hepa Air filter which will be replaced multiple times throughout the year
- Classroom windows and/or doors will be opened (to what degree will be based upon the weather and/or air quality) to increase fresh air circulation throughout the classroom.
- Students and staff will wash their hands before and after eating
- Meal service facilities including frequently touched surfaces within the cafeteria will be cleaned and disinfected daily and throughout the day as practicable by trained staff.
- All restrooms have been supplied with soap, paper towels, and touchless trash cans.
- All restroom surfaces will be disinfected throughout the day
- Students will use hand-sanitizer when boarding a bus, and hand sanitizer will be available for students when getting off the bus.
- Trained staff will clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces on school buses daily and, as practicable, throughout the day between routes.
- Each school site has multiple portable hand washing stations with soap and water
- Gloves are available for those staff conducting duties such as cleaning, first aid, food service, or providing services for students
- Each classroom, cafeteria, office, library, and support service rooms have been supplied with a hand sanitizer dispenser, tissues, no touch trash cans, and spray bottle with disinfectant.
- Staff will clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces within school at least daily and, as practicable, frequently throughout the day by trained custodial staff. Frequently touched surfaces in the school include: Door handles, Light switches, sink handles, bathroom surfaces, tables, student desks, chairs, computers, equipment, etc.
- Custodial staff with the responsibility of cleaning and disinfecting the school site have been equipped with CloroxPro electrostatic sprayers.

☒ **Cohorting:** How students will be kept in small, stable, groups with fixed membership that stay together for all activities (e.g., instruction, lunch, recess) and minimize/avoid contact with other groups or individuals who are not part of the cohort.

Classroom Protocols

- Students will be seated 6 feet apart to minimize risk of exposure.
- All desks will face the same direction.
- Desks will be arranged in a way that minimizes face-to-face contact.
- Student movement within the classroom will be limited.
- Cohorts (groups) of students will be kept from mixing to the greatest extent possible.
- Students will remain in the same space and in groups as small and consistent as practicable.
- Students will remain with the same teacher or staff to the greatest extent possible.
- Student passing times will be staggered.
- Procedures for safe and socially distanced activities inside the classroom will be implemented.
- Procedures for safe and socially distanced activities outside the classroom will be implemented.

Cafeteria Meal Service Protocols

- Breakfast and lunch service times will be staggered to minimize cohort mixing.
- Breakfast and lunch service models may be altered occasionally to minimize cohort mixing to do weather and or air/quality.
- Students eating breakfast and lunch service inside the cafeteria will be socially distanced 4 to 6 feet.
- Breakfast and lunch meals may be served in a classroom and/or outside instead of inside the cafeteria.
- Designated routes for student entry and exit, using as many entrances as possible will be implemented
- Meal service work stations may be reorganized for proper physical distancing during meal preparation and meal service
- Meal service staff shifts may be adjusted to minimize number of staff in kitchen
- Meal service staff will provide physical guides such as tape on floors or sidewalks or signage to ensure physical distancing
- Procedures to limit direct contact with others will be implemented to the greatest extent possible.

Restroom Protocols

- Student cohorts will be kept from mixing inside a restroom to the greatest extent possible.
- Procedures for students and staff to access restrooms at staggered times will be implemented.
- Grade levels of students may be assigned certain restrooms to minimize cohort mixing.
- The number of students accessing the restroom at one time will be limited.

Recess Protocols

- Student cohorts will be kept in smaller groups where possible in order to minimize cohort mixing.
- School sites will develop modified recess schedules to limit the number of students at recess at one time
- While using outdoor spaces, student cohorts will be maintained to the greatest extent possible.

- Contact sports and activities that encourage close contact will be avoided.
- Increased supervision during recess will monitor social distancing and cohort mixing.
- Students and staff will wash their hands after being at recess.
- The use of shared playground equipment will be limited in favor of physical activities that require less contact with surfaces.
- Grade level recess activities will occur in designated areas to facilitate social distancing and minimize cohort mixing.

P.E. – Protocols:

- Student cohorts will be kept in smaller groups where possible in order to minimize cohort mixing.
- Contact sports and activities that encourage close contact will be avoided.
- PE will be limited to activities that do not involve physical contact with other students or equipment
- Athletics may be limited to activities that do not involve physical contact with other students or equipment
- Teachers will establish flexibilities and plan how to implement physical distancing given lack of space and facility limitations
- Students will be arranged in a way that minimize face-to-face contact
- Students and staff will wash their hands after participating in P.E.
- The sharing of objects, equipment, and supplies will be limited to the extent practicable. But where allowed, they will be cleaned and disinfected between uses
- With social distancing the following activities involve close contact and are not permissible: Basketball; Hockey; Volleyball; Football; Soccer; Baseball, Softball, Dancing; Kickball

Choir / Band / Drama / Electives - Protocols

- Student cohorts will be kept in smaller groups where possible in order to minimize cohort mixing.
- There will be no wind instruments or horn instruments.
- All other instruments including strings / percussion / piano will be allowed with adequate social distancing.
- Students will be arranged in a way that minimizes face-to-face contact
- Teachers will establish and implement daily routines for both in-person and asynchronous learning delivery
- Movement of students and teachers will be minimized.

Transportation - Protocols

- Students will wear a face covering while using district transportation services (bus).
- Students will be socially distanced 4-6 feet while using district transportation services (bus).
- Students will use hand-sanitizer when boarding a bus, and hand sanitizer will be available for students when getting on/off the bus.
- Windows may be opened for better ventilation (weather and/or air quality permitting)
- Siblings may sit together while on a bus.
- Students and families will be guided to maintain 4- 6-foot distancing at bus stops and while loading and unloading
- When picking up students, students getting on first will be seated the back and the students getting on last will sit in the front

- When dropping off students, students getting off first will be seated the front and the students getting off last in the back
- Trained staff will clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces on school buses daily and, as practicable, throughout the day between routes.
- Bus schedules may be altered to accommodate social distancing requirements.

☒ Entrance, Egress, and Movement Within the School: How movement of students, staff, and parents will be managed to avoid close contact and/or mixing of cohorts.

Entrance

- All students and staff will be Symptom-Screened each day upon arrival at school
- There will be multiple points of entry for symptom screening at each campus
- Symptom screening will be consistent with public health guidance: 1) Visual wellness; 2) Temperature Checks; 3) Ask students and staff about COVID-19 symptoms within the last 24 hours
- Daily temperature checks will be conducted by staff using a no-touch Infrared Temporal thermometer
- Hand sanitizer will be available for all students and staff upon entering campus
- Teachers will develop classroom entry procedures which adhere to social distancing guidelines.
- Signage will be in place to remind parents of social distancing guidelines when dropping off their child upon arrival at school.

Movement Within the School

- Student passing times will be staggered to mitigate the mixing of cohorts.
- Recess times will be staggered to mitigate the mixing of cohorts.
- Meal service times will be staggered to mitigate the mixing of cohorts.
- There will be designated routes for student entry into the cafeteria, using as many entrances as possible will be implemented
- Staff will develop procedures for students to walk to a location outside their classroom (e.g. cafeteria, library, etc.) which adhere to social distancing guidelines.

Egress

- Student dismissal times will be staggered to mitigate the mixing of cohorts.
- There will be multiple points of exit on each campus.
- There will be designated routes for student exit from the campus, using as many exits as possible.
- Staff will develop procedures for students to exit campus which adhere to social distancing guidelines.
- Signage will be in place to remind parents of social distancing guidelines when picking up their child at dismissal from school.

☒ **Face Coverings and Other Essential Protective Gear:** How CDPH's face covering requirements will be satisfied and enforced.

- In accordance with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Guidance, students and staff are expected to wear face coverings unless they are exempted with a Doctor's note and/or disability.
- All staff are required to wear masks, face coverings or draped face shields except when outdoors and distanced further than 6 feet apart.
- All students in grades 3 through 8 are required to wear masks, face coverings, or draped face shields at all time while indoors unless exempted by a physician's note or when eating or participating in outdoor physical recreation when distanced further than 6 feet apart.
- All students in grades TK-2 are strongly encouraged to wear masks, face coverings or draped face shields at all time while indoors unless exempted by a physician's note or when eating or participating in outdoor physical recreation when distanced further than 6 feet apart.
- Plexiglass tri-fold desk shields will be provided for all students in grades TK-3 when developmental barriers may inhibit consistent and appropriate use of masks, face coverings, or draped face shields by younger children.
- Students and staff are encouraged to bring their own face covering from home which they find most comfortable. If students or staff do not have a face covering one will be provided. Cloth face coverings, disposable masks, and face shields have been purchased and are available.
- Students will utilized face coverings while on the bus, while in the classroom, while waiting to enter campus, while entering campus, while on school grounds (except when eating, drinking, or social distanced outside further than 6 feet), and while exiting campus/
- Staff will be supplied with gloves, face coverings, wipes, hand sanitizer, and plexiglass shields for close 1:1 instruction or assessment
- Teachers and identified staff will receive a cloth face covering and reusable face shield.

☒ **Health Screenings for Students and Staff:** How students and staff will be screened for symptoms of COVID-19 and how ill students or staff will be separated from others and sent home immediately.

Before Arriving at School

- All students and staff should symptom-screen before coming to school
- Any student or staff should stay home if they are sick
- Students and staff are recommended to take their temperature daily before going to school
- Students and staff with a fever of 100.4 or higher should not go to a school site
- Students and staff should screen at home for respiratory symptoms such as cough and shortness of breath prior to coming to school each day
- Students and staff experiencing those symptoms should *not* attend school
- Students and staff should stay at home if they have symptoms consistent with COVID-19 or if they have had close contact with a person diagnosed with COVID-19

Symptom Screening on Arrival at School

- All students and staff will be Symptom-Screened each day upon arrival at school
- There will be multiple points of entry for symptom screening at each campus
- Symptom screening will be consistent with public health guidance: 1) Visual wellness; 2) Temperature Checks; 3) Ask students and staff about COVID-19 symptoms within the last 24 hours

- Daily temperature checks will be conducted by staff using a no-touch Infrared Temporal thermometer
- Hand sanitizer will be available for all students and staff upon entering campus
- Any and all adults entering campus (e.g. staff, special education service providers, etc.) will be symptom screened prior to entering campus.

Symptom Screening While at School

- Each school site will have a designated 'quarantine' room for students who are not feeling well to minimize contact with others until they are able to go home
- The quarantine room will be utilized to maintain the health and safety of students and staff, especially when tending to individual student medical or personal needs
- Students and staff will be visually monitored throughout the day for signs of illness
- Any student or staff displaying signs of illness will be immediately referred to the school site nurse for assessment.
- Students or staff with a fever of 100.4 degrees or higher, cough or other COVID-19 symptoms will be sent home.
- The school nurse maintains a record of all illnesses and COVID related incidents for students. The Superintendent / designee maintains all records of illness and COVID related incidents for staff.

Notification

- If any student or staff member is confirmed to have tested positive for the COVID virus, the entire school community will be notified, and the County Health Officer will direct next steps for that respective department, school, or student population.

☒ Healthy Hygiene Practices: The availability of handwashing stations and hand sanitizer, and how their use will be promoted and incorporated into routines.

- Signage will be prominently displayed at all sites reminding individuals of proper virus safety protocols.
- Hand sanitizer will be available for all students and staff upon entering campus
- All students and staff will wash/clean their hands multiple times throughout the day using frequency guidance.
- Routines enabling students and staff to regularly wash their hands at staggered times will be implemented.
- Paper towel and soap dispensers are available in classrooms with sinks.
- Portable handwashing stations with soap and water are available near classrooms without sinks.
- Hand sanitizer dispensers are available in every classroom and common area on campus.
- Staff will teach and reinforce washing hands, avoiding contact with one's eyes, nose, and mouth, and covering coughs and sneezes among students and staff.
- Procedures for hand-sanitizing routines will be implemented. Children under the age 9 should be supervised while applying hand-sanitizer.
- Students and staff will wash their hands before and after eating
- All restrooms have been supplied with soap, paper towels, and touchless trash cans.
- Students and staff will wash their hands after using the restroom.
- Students and staff will wash their hands after being at recess.

- Students and staff will wash their hands after participating in P.E.
- Students will use hand-sanitizer when boarding a bus, and hand sanitizer will be available for students when getting on/off the bus.
- Hand sanitizing stations are available in all instructional areas.
- Students and staff will be required to sanitize their hands before entering any indoor instructional area.

☒ 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 contact tracing, such as creation and submission of lists of exposed students and staff to the local health department and notification of exposed persons. Each school must designate a person for the local health department to contact about COVID-19.

- Schools will maintain communication systems that allow staff and families to self-report symptoms and receive prompt notifications of exposures and closures, while maintaining confidentiality, as required by FERPA and state law related to privacy of educational records and other privacy laws.
- Using the CDPH guidance and in collaboration with EUSD staff, district nurses and administration will serve as the primary contacts and contract tracers, to the extent practicable, when situations arise with a possible COVID-19 exposure or student tests positive for COVID-19. The Assistant Superintendent – Human Resources will serve as the primary contact and contact tracer, to the extent practicable, when situations arise with a possible COVID-19 exposure or staff member tests positive for COVID-19. Close contact is defined by CDC as someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes starting
- Close contact is defined by CDC as someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes starting from 2 days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic clients, 2 days prior to positive specimen collection) until the time the patient is isolated.
- The Assistant Superintendent – Human Resources will supervise and coordinate any additional efforts regarding communication with staff or families who have been in close contact, maintaining confidentiality according to FERPA.
- EUSD will collaborate with the Stanislaus County Health Services Agency (SCHSA) to identify and trace contacts using a syndromic and COVID surveillance system for case reporting and tracking.
- School principals will be the designated contact for the local health department.

☒ Physical Distancing: How space and routines will be arranged to allow for physical distancing of students and staff.

- The EUSD will utilize all the protocols listed above to maintain a social distance of 6 feet between all students and staff inside a classroom.
- During regular school hours, school sites will restrict non-essential visitors, volunteers, and activities involving other groups and ask school community members to call the of physically visiting it for routine office business. An appointment system will be used for non-routine meetings.
- The EUSD will minimize the movement of students and teachers or staff as much as practicable.
- The EUSD will not hold large gatherings such as assemblies, award ceremonies and performance and move to implement virtual events for families instead of on-campus gatherings for widely attended events such as Back-to-School Night and Open House.
- The EUSD staff will create and implement routes designated to reduce face-to-face contact and directionality at entry and exit to lunch, recess, and other transition times.
- The EUSD staff will stagger schedules for restroom breaks and hand washing.

- The EUSD staff will modify instructional schedules, lunch and recess protocols to reduce the concentration of students and build stable cohorts.
- The EUSD may serve meals outdoors or in classrooms in lieu of the cafeteria.
- The EUSD staff will hold recess and play activities in separate areas designated by class or grade level.
- Each EUSD school will have a 'quarantine' room to hold staff or students who show symptoms while at school.
- The EUSD is utilizing the hybrid return to school model to split our respective student populations in one-half to support the efforts to social distance.

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

- Staff will be trained and families will be educated on the application and enforcement of the plan.
- Site principals and district administration will collaboratively provide training to all staff members on the application and enforcement of the plan
- The Assistant Superintendent – Human Resources will provide training for district office staff.
- Communication will be sent home to families explaining the plan and expectations. Communication may occur in the form of printed materials, Parent Square postings, website postings and personal communications via phone or email or conference.

☒ Testing of Students and Staff: How school officials will ensure that students and staff who have symptoms of COVID-19 or have been exposed to someone with 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.

- School officials will ensure that students and staff who have symptoms of COVID-19 or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 will seek rapid testing and instructions will be given while waiting for test results. Staff be tested periodically to detect asymptomatic infections.
- The District will test staff periodically, as testing capacity permits and as practicable. Examples of recommended frequency include testing all staff over 2 months, where 25% of staff are tested every 2 weeks, or 50% every month to rotate testing of all staff over time, and staff will be provided a COVID-19 test.
- EUSD will be participating in the Stanislaus County Office of Education (SCOE) sponsored COVID-19 testing program.
- Should staff require testing beyond their EUSD bi-monthly district testing, they may utilize their private insurance provider for testing or one of three community testing centers in Stanislaus County (Modesto, Turlock, Salida).
- The Assistant Superintendent Human Resources will oversee the coordination with our respective school sites to ensure that students and staff are quickly and safely removed from the school setting if they show symptoms of the virus.
- The Assistant Superintendent Human Resources will coordinate the actions of our staff regarding testing and periods of quarantine. The Deputy Superintendent will also coordinate all return to work stipulations

- Respective School Site Principals and School Nurses will coordinate the actions of students regarding testing and periods of quarantine. The respective Site Principals and School Nurse will coordinate any return to school stipulations for students.
- Testing protocols for asymptomatic individuals will be dictated by the County Public Health Office.

Triggers for Switching to Distance Learning: The criteria the superintendent will use to determine when to physically close the school and prohibit in-person instruction.

- Criteria the superintendent will use to determine when to physically close a school and prohibit in-person instruction has been determined.
- The California Department of Public Health recommends individual school closure based on the number of cases, the percentage of the teacher/student/staff that are positive for COVID-19, and following consultation with the Local Health Officer. Individual school closure may be appropriate when there are multiple cases in multiple cohorts at a school or when at least 5 percent of the total number of teacher/student/ staff cases are within a 14-day period, depending on the size and physical layout of the school.
- The California Department of Health recommends that a superintendent close a school district if 25% or more of the schools in a district have closed due to COVID-19 within 14 days, and in consultation with the local health department.
- The Local Health Official may also determine school closure is warranted for other reasons, including results from public health investigation or other local epidemiological data.

Communication Plans: How the superintendent will communicate with students, staff, and parents about cases and exposures at the school, consistent with privacy requirements such as FERPA and HIPAA. Please specifically refer to 34 CFR § 99.3

- The Superintendent or designee will communicate with students, staff, and parents about cases and exposures at the school consistent with private requirements such as FERPA and HIPAA.
- Student or staff with COVID-19 symptoms (e.g. fever, cough, loss of taste or smell, difficulty breathing):
 - Sent home immediately and placed in school's quarantine room while awaiting pick-up.
 - Recommend to be COVID-19 tested.
 - No communication to their classroom or school community.
- Student or staff with COVID-19 symptoms with close contact to a confirmed COVID-19 case:
 - Send home student or staff immediately
 - Quarantine for 24 days from last exposure
 - Recommend COVID-19 testing
 - School/classroom remain open
 - Consider school community notification of a known contact
- Staff or student with confirmed COVID-19 case infection:
 - Notify the local public health department
 - Isolate case and exclude from school for 10 days from symptom onset or test date
 - Identify close contacts, quarantine and exclude exposed contacts, could be entire cohort for 14 days after the last date the case was present at school while infectious
 - Recommend testing of contacts, prioritize symptomatic contacts
 - Disinfection and cleaning of classroom and primary surfaces where case spent significant time
 - School remains open
 - School or classroom community notification of a known case

- Staff or student tests negative after symptoms:
 - Staff or student may return to school 3 days after symptoms resolve
 - School/classroom remain open
 - Consider school community notification if prior awareness of testing.