



## **Durham families,**

We want to start by thanking our entire educational community for their patience as we have navigated this world of change since the Covid-19 Pandemic first impacted schools in March of 2020. We are working hard to provide the best possible education for our students, and planning for the return daily in-person instruction beginning March 1. The DUSD Board of Trustees approved this date for return at the Jan. 20, 2021 school board meeting.

School Districts are required to follow the guidance released by the California Department of Public Health on January 14, 2021 titled, “COVID-19 and Reopening In-Person Instruction & Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools in California, 2020-2021 School Year.”

There are three main COVID-19 Mitigation areas that schools must address when opening schools for in person instruction.

1. **Face Coverings** - “Students in all grade levels are required to wear face coverings at all times while at school.” The language goes on to state masks may be removed for meals. All staff must follow CDPH guidelines for face coverings.
2. **Social distancing** - “Maximize space between seating and desks. Distance teacher and other staff desks at least 6 feet away from student and other staff desks. Distance student chairs at least 6 feet away from one another, except where 6 feet of distance is not possible after a good-faith effort has been made. Upon request by the local health department and/or State Safe Schools Team, the superintendent should be prepared to demonstrate that good-faith effort, including an effort to consider all outdoor/indoor space options and hybrid learning models. Under no circumstances should the distance between student chairs be less than 4 feet. If 6 feet of distance is not possible, it is recommended to optimize ventilation and consider using other separation techniques such as partitions between students or desks, or arranging desks in a way that minimizes face-to-face contact.

3. **Testing** - This is a tricky area. The CDPH guidance has requirements for districts providing COVID-19 tests for both staff and students. It has been clarified that districts have to make it available but can't require either staff or students to take a test. This section of the guidance is being debated by the Governor and Legislature right now, and we aren't sure what the actual requirements will be.

How DUSD is addressing these requirements will be shared in this March 1 Reopening Plan.

As the Superintendent, I am always looking for input and ideas for how we can best support our students. Please read this entire plan and then contact me via email at [jbohannon@durhamunified.org](mailto:jbohannon@durhamunified.org) or by phone at 895-4675, ext. 227 with any questions, ideas or concerns.

Thank you,

John Bohannon  
Superintendent

# March 1 Reopening 2020-2021 Safety Guidelines

## Sanitation

- Hand sanitizer dispensers placed at the entry/exit point of each classroom
- Hand sanitizer units placed at common areas
- Disinfecting will be completed daily on high-volume touch points throughout campuses
- Cleaning protocols to ensure proper disinfecting will be reviewed and modified as needed
- Sharing of supplies between students will be minimized. When sharing is necessary, supplies will be appropriately disinfected and/or students will be required to wash/sanitize their hands before and after use.
- MERV 13 filters are in all HVAC units and air circulation will be turned on in the HVAC to happen continuously throughout the school day.

## Personal Protective Equipment

- Durham Unified will follow face covering guidelines set by the California and Butte County Public Health Departments using guidance created by the state. Following the State's Safe Schools for All Plan **requires face coverings for all staff and students**. It recommends surgical masks for staff. Those who refuse to wear face coverings must be restricted from campus.
- Food Handlers and health care staff will wear all required personal protective equipment (PPE)

## Health Screening

- Staff and students should complete a daily health check before reporting to school.
- Families are recommended to take temperatures daily before going to school
- Anyone with a fever of 100.4 degrees or higher may not go to school site
- Students and adults would screen themselves for respiratory symptoms such as cough and shortness of breath prior to coming to school each day. Students and adults experiencing those symptoms should not attend school

## Social Distancing

- Social distancing signage will be in place
- Physical barriers will be installed as determined by administration in high traffic areas on campuses
- Classroom furniture and equipment will be arranged for social distancing to the greatest extent possible and student seats will be no closer than 4 feet. To facilitate this, in many classrooms tables have been replaced by desks and the largest classes at DHS have been moved to the library, where student seats 6 feet apart.
- Any time students seats are between 4 and 6 feet apart protective screens will be placed on desks/tables.

# **California Tier System and DUSD's Plan**

## **Consolidated Schools Guidance**

[https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/CDPH%20Document%20Library/COVID-19/Consolidated\\_Schools\\_Guidance.pdf](https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/CDPH%20Document%20Library/COVID-19/Consolidated_Schools_Guidance.pdf)

CA Safe Schools Hub

<https://schools.covid19.ca.gov/>

## **DUSD Board Approved Minimum Day Option Plan**

- TK-12 - Begins in Person March 1 (Feb. 25/26 Distance Learning Days to prep for transition)
- Full-Time DL option for students not comfortable returning full time
- Minimum Day schedule on Fridays for prep/student support (Release time at 11:30 a.m.)

## **What will Distance Learning Look like in Durham?**

DUSD will continue to utilize Acellus Online Learning. This program offers online instructional videos and full curriculum for K-12 students.

The Distance learning program will include daily contact with a certificated staff member and at least 240 minutes of asynchronous work per day. At DHS, full-time DL students may have the option to join live classes through Google Meet in SOU courses and some electives, but will not have this option for all classes.

For families and their students who choose the full distance learning model, as opposed to attending on campus, a teacher or teachers will assign a schedule of Acellus classes and support students and families to successfully navigate the curriculum. DL teachers may assign other curriculum through Google Classroom as well.

## **What if my student is attending in person and is required to quarantine?**

If a student tests positive for COVID-19 or is determined to be a close contact with someone that tests positive, that student will be required to isolate/quarantine away from school for 10 days. These absences will be handled very similarly to any other illness related absences.

Teachers will make every effort to provide the work for the students via Google Classroom to complete while in quarantine. Students will also have a "reasonable" amount of time to complete work, including tests, when they return from quarantine. Students will not be able to switch to

Distance Learning during this time, they will be responsible for the work assigned by their in person teachers.

## **How will bus Transportation work?**

All staff and students on the bus will be required to wear a mask. Students will be required to sit in assigned seats to support contact tracing should someone on the bus become a confirmed COVID-19 case. Social distancing recommendations are unlikely to be met on the bus.

## **Positive COVID-19 Tests and Confirmed Contact**

Durham Unified will follow the guidance of the Butte County Health Department regarding protocols for the following situations:

- When a staff member or students tests positive for COVID-19
- When it is safe for previously infected or exposed staff or students to return to school
- When a student or staff member has close contact with a confirmed COVID-19 case

What happens if my student must miss school due to a positive test or being a contact to a confirmed positive test?

These will be handled similarly to the process for Excused Absences and will be handled in accordance with Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 5113 which state per California Education Code:

“A student shall not have a grade reduced or lose academic credit for any excused absence if missed assignments and tests that can reasonably be provided are satisfactorily completed within a reasonable period of time.”

Teachers will make every effort to maintain their Google Classrooms, including making assignments for students in isolation/quarantine available. Students will also have a reasonable amount of time to complete assignments and tests upon their return to school from isolation/quarantine.

### **State COVID-19 Testing Requirements**

The Consolidated Schools Guidance requires schools to make testing available for staff and students. The regularity of the testing is up for debate as the Governor and Legislature have released different plans.

As of now, any staff member or student (with consent from parents) can sign up for a free COVID-19 test through OptumServe (<https://lhi.care/covidtesting>). OptumServe is located at 900 Mangrove Ave in Chico (near McDonalds). People without access to internet can call 1-888-634-1123 to make an appointment for a test. You must make an appointment for the test. As of Feb. 22, there is plenty of capacity for tests at this location.

The Butte County Department of Public Health is exploring adding two more possible free testing locations.

## Athletics

The California Department of Public Health released updated guidance for athletics on February 19, 2021. This new guidance allows for outdoor sports football, soccer, baseball, cheerleading to resume with modifications in counties where the case rates are at or below 14 cases for 100,000 people. As of Feb. 16, Butte County was at 16 cases per 100,000. The new guidelines take effect Friday, Feb. 26.

The guidelines state:

- Face coverings to be worn when not participating in the activity (e.g., on the sidelines).
- Face coverings to be worn by coaches, support staff and **observers** at all times, and in compliance with the CDPH [Guidance for the Use of Face Coverings](#).
- Observers maintain at least 6 feet from non-household members.
- No sharing of drink bottles and other personal items and equipment.
- Mixing with other households prior to and post any practice or competition must strictly adhere to current gathering guidance.
- Limit indoor sports activities (practice, conditioning) to comply with capacity limits (which shall include all athletes, coaches, and observers) indicated in current CDPH [Gym & Fitness Center Guidance Capacity](#).
- Associated indoor activities for the team (e.g., dinners, film study) are prohibited if engaged in competition given evidence that transmission is more likely to occur in these indoor higher risk settings.
- Teams must not participate in out-of-state games and tournaments; several multistate outbreaks have been reported around the nation, including California residents.

### Limitations on Observers

- Limit observation of youth sports (age 18 years and under) to immediate household members, and for the strict purpose of age appropriate supervision. This includes observation of practice and competition. Limit number of observers to ensure physical distance can be maintained, reduce potential crowding, and maintain indoor and outdoor capacity limits.
- Consider Video streaming of games so that they can be watched "live" from home
- For adult sports, spectators are not permitted at this time.

### Limitations for Inter-Team Competitions and Tournaments

- Inter-team competitions, meets, races, or similar events are permitted to occur only if (a) both teams are located in the same county and the sport is authorized in the Tables below; or (b) teams are located in immediately bordering counties and the sport is authorized in both counties in the Tables below.
  - The county-based authorizations outlined in the Table below apply to the locations/counties in which the teams, schools, clubs, leagues, and similar

organizations are functionally based (e.g., where the players reside, where facilities are located, etc.).

- Local Health Departments to be notified of any cross county competitions within their jurisdiction and reserve the right under their own discretion to deny the competition at any time in their jurisdiction. Teams participating in cross county competitions will follow the more stringent rules if the participating teams are coming from counties that may be at different case rate thresholds.
- Teams adhere to current [CDPH Travel Advisory](#) recommendations when determining travel for competition in neighboring counties.
- No tournaments or events that involve more than two teams to occur. Exceptions may be made, with authorization from the local health department where the event is being held and each of the local health departments where teams originate from, for sports where individual competitors from multiple teams are routine such as: track and field; cross-country; golf; skiing/snowboarding; tennis; swimming/diving/surfing; biking and equestrian events.
- Only one competition, per team, per day maximum to be played.

#### **Permitted Youth and Recreational Adult Sports by Case Rate Threshold**

- Physical conditioning, practice, skill-building, and training that can be conducted outdoors, with 6 feet of physical distancing, and within stable cohorts are authorized regardless of case rate or sport. Such activities may be conducted indoors consistent with restrictions by Tier in the [Gym & Fitness Center Guidance Capacity](#).

### **Other General Guidance**

Below are other general guidance that are strongly encouraged as part of any participation in sport. Depending on risk level (high or moderate) and county case rates, these general guidance may be **required** for play of outdoor sports in less restrictive tiers, as specified below.

#### **Face Coverings**

- Face coverings worn by participants during practice, conditioning and during competition, even during heavy exertion as tolerated. See the [American Academy of Pediatrics Interim Guidance on Return to Sports \[1\]](#) for specific exceptions where the face covering may become a hazard.

#### **Physical Distancing**

- Maintain at least six feet of distance between sport participants and others to the maximum extent possible, including when on the sidelines.
- Maintain at least 6 feet of distance between coaches and participants and facilitate physical distancing between participants to the maximum extent possible (e.g., staggered starts instead of mass starts for races).

#### **Informed Consent**

- Due to the nature and risk of transmission while participating in Outdoor High-Contact and Moderate-Contact sports, provide information regarding risk to all parents/guardians of minors participating in such sports, and have each parent sign an informed consent indicating their understanding and acknowledgement of the risks indicated herein.

### **Testing**

- Unless required as noted below, regular and postseason antigen or PCR testing of sports participants and coaches weekly while participating in Outdoor High-Contact sports is strongly encouraged. If competing, testing performed with test results made available within 24 hours of play.

### **Hygiene and Equipment Sanitation**

- When equipment is shared during an activity, participants perform hand hygiene (wash hands with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer) before play, during breaks, at half time, and after the conclusion of the activity.
  - Balls or other objects or equipment can be touched by multiple players during practice and play if the above hand hygiene practices are followed.

### **Limitations on Mixing by Participants**

- Limit participation by athletes and coaches during practice and competition to one team, and refrain from participating with more than one team over the same season or time period. For larger teams, limit mixing by establishing stable smaller training groups for drills and conditioning.
- Review practice or game footage virtually, to the greatest extent possible. If not feasible, then it should be conducted outdoors, with all participants wearing face coverings and following appropriate physical distancing measures.

### **Indoor Venue Capacity Limitations**

- Ventilation in indoor venues (gyms or other fitness centers) increased to the maximum extent possible.

### **Travel Considerations**

- Bus/van travel for members of a team may pose a greater risk. To mitigate COVID-19 transmission risk during bus/van travel, employ universal masking, physical distancing and windows to remain open the full duration of the trip unless not feasible.
- Plan for proper communication of all travel rules, protocols and expectations to everyone in the travel party. When feasible, teams should aim to travel and play the same day to avoid overnight stays.
- Travel by private car limited to only those within the immediate household.

### **Returning to Sports After Infection**

- No one with symptoms of COVID-19 or who is in isolation or quarantine for COVID-19 is permitted to attend practices or competitions.

- Anyone with symptoms of COVID-19 should consult their physician for testing and notify their coach, athletic trainer and/or school administrator of their symptoms and test results.
- Youths recovering from COVID-19 will have different paths to return to sports based on the severity of their illness. See the [American Academy of Pediatrics Interim Guidance on Return to Sports \[1\]](#) for additional guidance for more serious infections.

### **Vaccination of Eligible Households**

- Sports participants, including coaches and support staff, are strongly encouraged to be vaccinated once eligible as vaccines will protect residents and reduce the likelihood of transmission from infected persons to others.

### **\*Play in Less Restrictive Tiers: Outdoor High-Contact Sports**

Outdoor high-contact sports (orange tier) can be played in the purple or red tier with an adjusted case rate equal to or less than 14 per 100,000 under the following conditions:

**Implement and strictly adhere to the following additional general guidance:**

- Informed Consent
- Testing – antigen or PCR (regular and postseason antigen or PCR testing of sports participants and coaches weekly. If competing, testing performed with test results made available within 24 hours of play)

**Note: The testing requirement above shall only apply in the following situations:**

- For football, rugby and water polo as these are high contact sports that are likely to be played unmasked, with close, face to face contact exceeding 15 minutes.
- When adjusted case rates for the county are between 14-7 per 100,000.
- For sport participants 13 years of age or above as evidence shows that younger children do not seem to be major sources of transmission—either to each other or to adults.
- \*If more than 50% of a team's participants are less than the age of 13 (and are not required to test per the above), then the entire team is exempted from the testing requirement. Coaches, however, will still be required to meet the testing requirement.

**Additional general guidance that should be implemented to the greatest extent possible and are strongly encouraged**

- Face Coverings (during play)
- Physical Distancing (during play)
- Testing – antigen or PCR

- Hygiene and Sanitation
- Limitations on mixing by participants
- Travel Considerations

### **\*Play in Less Restrictive Tiers: Outdoor Moderate-Contact Sports**

Outdoor moderate-contact sports (red tier) can be played in the purple tier with an adjusted case rate equal to or less than 14 per 100,000 under the following conditions:

**Implement and strictly adhere to the following additional general guidance:**

- Informed Consent

**Additional general guidance that should be implemented to the greatest extent possible and are strongly encouraged**

- Face Coverings (during play)
- Physical Distancing (during play)
- Hygiene and Sanitation
- Limitations on mixing by participants
- Travel Considerations

If competition for high- and moderate-contact sports is permitted to resume in a county pursuant to this updated guidance, competition is not required to cease if the county's adjusted case rate exceeds the 14 per 100,000 threshold.