

Madera County Superintendent of Schools

School Reopening Plan

Spring 2021

The Madera County Superintendent of Schools (MCSOS) looks forward to welcoming all students and staff back for in-person instruction, with high levels of safety in mind. Based on guidance from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), the Madera County Department of Public Health (MCDPH), the California Department of Education (CDE), and Cal/OSHA, a plan has been developed to return to in-person instruction in adherence to the state and local guidance and requirements.

Over the past several months, MCSOS has operated a limited number of in-person instructional programs with high levels of success. In July, 2020, the Early Education Center (EEC) reopened, based on guidance and approval from MCDPH, to provide child care to essential workers. This program is comprised of 8 classrooms and over 100 students, many of which are on site for 8 hours or more. Additionally, starting in October, 2020, small group cohorts opened to serve students with in-person instruction based on the established criteria and guidance. As of March, 2021, there are 13 small group cohort classrooms providing in-person instruction throughout Madera County. The implementation of the small group cohorts has been highly successful due to the efforts of staff, students and parents/guardians and the health and safety protocols outlined in this School Reopening Plan and COVID-19 Safety Plan and the efforts of all staff involved.

The safety protocols within the MCSOS Reopening Plan and COVID-19 Safety Plan are designed to support and promote a safe and healthy work and learning environment as we return to in-person instruction for all students. The COVID-19 Safety Plan (CSP) is comprised of the COVID-19 Prevention Plan (CPP) and the COVID-19 School Guidance Checklist. The COVID-19 Prevention Plan is intended for staff only, and is a Cal/OSHA requirement. The COVID-19 School Guidance Checklist directly correlates to the CPP and addresses the health and safety protocols for **both** staff and students.

The COVID-19 School Guidance Checklist (CSGC) addresses numerous health and safety protocols upon returning to in-person instruction. These components include:

1. Stable Group Structures

- a. Students and staff will maintain stable group structures upon return to each school site. For more information on how students and staff will be kept in stable groups, please see page 1 of the CSGC.

2. Entrance, Egress, and Movement Within the School

- a. The movement of students, staff, and parents will be managed to avoid close contact and/or mixing of cohorts. See page 1 of the CSGC for more information on how MCSOS will address the movement of students, staff and parents on the school site.

3. Face Coverings and Other Essential Protective Gear

- a. MCSOS requires all staff, students, parents, and visitors (which is very limited) to wear face masks and adheres to the CDPH guidance on face coverings and other essential gear. See pages 1-3 of the CSGC for a description of the personal protection equipment (PPE) required and provided by MCSOS.

4. Health Screening for Students and Staff

- a. All staff and students will be required to conduct a daily wellness check prior to the start of each school day. Students will be screened for COVID-19 related symptoms, including a temperature check, prior to onboarding the bus or arriving to the classroom. Anyone who is unable to pass the screening will not be permitted to enter the site. Staff and students who become ill with symptoms related to COVID-19 during the school day will be isolated and sent home immediately. For a complete description of the screening protocols for students and staff, see pages 3-4 of the CSGC.

5. Healthy Hygiene Practices

- a. Healthy hygiene includes access to handwashing stations and hand sanitizer, and routines established to promote frequent handwashing and hand sanitation. For a complete description of the healthy hygiene practices for students and staff, see pages 4-5 of the CSGC.

6. Identification and Tracing of Contacts

- a. When there is a confirmed case of COVID-19, there are prescribed actions designated and trained staff will take to address the situation. These actions include instructions for isolation to staff or student with COVID-19, contact tracing notifications and quarantine information, the submission of information to the local public health officer and the statewide system, School Portal for Outbreak Tracking (SPOT). For a complete description of the identification and contact tracing protocols for a confirmed case of COVID-19, see page 5 of the CSGC.

7. Physical Distancing

- a. Space and routines will be arranged in a manner that promotes physical distancing. Due to the number of students in each classroom served by MCSOS, a minimum of six feet physical distancing is attainable. See page 6 of the CSGC for a description of the physical distancing protocols at MCSOS sites.

8. Staff Training and Family Education

- a. See page 7-8 of the CSGC for a description of the trainings provided to staff and families regarding the the application of the COVID-19 Safety Plan requirements and protocols.

9. Testing of Staff

- a. MCSOS participates in the SISC/Quest COVID-19 Surveillance Testing program and has a partnership with MCDPH for “on-demand” testing, when an employee has symptoms related to COVID-19. When an employee has symptoms related to COVID-19 for an

unknown reason, they will be instructed to quarantine for a minimum of 10 days, pending COVID-19 test results. If an employee has symptoms related to COVID-19 and has been a close contact to an individual currently isolated for COVID-19, the employee must quarantine for a minimum of 10 days from the onset of symptoms, even with a negative COVID-19 test result. If an employee has completed the COVID-19 vaccine protocol, including both doses and a 14-day wait after the second dose, they do not need to quarantine due to a COVID-19 exposure. See pages 8-9 of the CSGC for information on COVID-19 testing for staff.

10. Testing of Students

- a. In the event a student develops symptoms related to COVID-19 for an unknown reason or cause, and it is determined a COVID-19 test is necessary, MCSOS has a partnership with MCDPH for an “on-demand” test. The student would be required to quarantine for a minimum of 10 days from the onset of symptoms, unless the COVID-19 test result is negative. If a student has symptoms related to COVID-19 and has been a close contact to an individual currently isolated for COVID-19, the student must quarantine for a minimum of 10 days from the onset of symptoms, even with a negative COVID-19 test result. See pages 8-9 of the CSGC for information on COVID-19 testing for students.

11. Identification and Reporting of Cases

- a. MCSOS adheres to the reporting of COVID-19 cases required by CDPH, Cal/OSHA and Self-Insured Schools of California. See page 9 of the CSGC for information on the identification and reporting protocols.

12. Communication Plans

- a. When there is a confirmed case of COVID-19, and potential exposure MCSOS will notify staff, students and parents/guardians consistent with the privacy requirements maintaining Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). For a description of the communication protocol and example notifications, see page 10 of the CSGC.

13. Ventilation

- a. Proper ventilation is an important component of the reopening plan. For information on the MCSOS operated HVAC system and ventilation protocols, see page 5 of the CSGC.

14. Transportation Protocols

- a. Students transported by MCSOS will adhere to an established set of protocols including by not limited to a health screening, hand hygiene, and seating assignments. Buses will be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected, including the use of the fogger at the end of each route. See page 7 of the CSGC for a description of transportation protocols.

As part of the reopening plan for the remainder of the 2020-21 school year, MCSOS will offer both in-person and distance learning instructional options beginning in April, 2021. The instructional program options for MCSOS operated programs and services are:

MCSOS Program/Services	In-Person Instruction	Distance Learning
Special Education Programs and Services	<p>Upon reopening, students will be attending in-person instruction five days per week for a half day. Preschool students will continue to attend school four days with both a morning and afternoon session as needed, Monday through Thursday. Students will be on campus between three and four hours depending on host district schedule. Specific information on a student’s return to in-person instruction will be available in the parent information packet.</p> <p>Students receiving specialized services will meet separately per the Individual Education Plan (IEP) with their service provider during their in-person day. Services will be provided in either a “pull-out” or “push-in” model.</p> <p>MCSOS will work in consultation with the host district to determine mainstreaming opportunities and schedules for students who have mainstreaming written into their IEP.</p>	<p>Students who opt to continue with distance learning will have simulcast instruction scheduled during the morning or will be scheduled for direct instruction in the afternoon.</p> <p>Students receiving specialized services will continue to do so via distance learning.</p> <p>Students who are mainstreaming with their typically developing peers will continue to do so in a distance learning format.</p> <p>All students in distance learning will continue to use MCSOS technology devices including hotspots as part of their learning platform.</p>
Career and Alternative Education Services	<p>Students enrolled in all Independent Study classes will be provided one hour of direct instruction per week. All students will continue to use MCSOS technology devices including hotspots as part of their learning platform. Students will continue</p>	<p>Students enrolled in all Independent Study classes will be provided one hour of direct instruction per week, however, Students who opt to continue with distance learning will have scheduled Zoom meetings with their teacher for direct instruction and weekly packets of</p>

	<p>receiving weekly work packets as part of there is program.</p> <p>Students enrolled in the Blended Independent Study program for Grades K-8 will meet on designated days with no more than 50% of the class present for each session. This ensures maximum space for social distancing for teacher and students during the class period.</p> <p>Students receiving specialized services will meet separately per their IEP with their service provider. These appointments normally occur after a student’s independent study class.</p>	<p>independent work will be distributed to students appropriately. All students will continue to use MCSOS technology devices including hotspots as part of their learning platform.</p> <p>Students receiving specialized services will meet via Zoom or Google Classroom at their pre-determined meeting times with their service providers, usually held after their weekly Independent study session.</p>
--	---	---

Additional Reopening Information

Special Education Services:

Classroom Protocols: The Gould Educational Center services students from the nine different school districts that make up Madera County in regionalized programs for students with moderated to severe disabilities. Students with identified special needs from preschool to age 22 participate in the Gould Educational Center programs. These students are served in Special Day Classes at various locations including regular education school sites and a center based educational site. In addition to their specialized academic instruction, students often receive additional designated services such as speech/language therapy, occupational therapy, deaf/hard of hearing services, services for the visually impaired, orientation and mobility services, specialized health care, behavior intervention services and adapted physical education. The MCSOS Special Day Classes typically have anywhere between 3 and 12 students.

Instructional Materials: Students will be provided their own individual pencil boxes with supplies such as pencils, crayons, glue, markers, scissors, etc. Any shared supplies will be sanitized between uses.

Food and Drink Protocols: In the event a snack or meal is served, students will maintain physical distancing. Weather permitting, students will eat outside. If they are unable to eat outside, the student will eat at their desk. The staff will be responsible for trash collection handled in a manner that upholds physical distancing and good hygiene norms. While water drinking fountains will not be available, water bottles may be brought from home or will be provided for

students. Additionally, staff and students on integrated sites will adhere to the food and drink protocols.

Restroom Protocols: Students and staff are assigned restrooms to use throughout the day. Staff are to wipe down the common touch surfaces (i.e. handles, faucet, etc.) after each use. If staff are assisting a student with toileting needs, the staff member will wear appropriate PPE including gloves, a disposable gown, goggles and/or a face shield. At the end of each day, maintenance custodial staff will fog each restroom using Vindicator X.

Maintenance Procedures: All classrooms, common areas, and restrooms will be maintained on a daily basis to include thorough cleaning and disinfecting. These areas also include all common flat surfaces, light switches, and door handles. Student and staff restrooms will be maintained multiple times per day including fogging on at least a daily basis, or more as needed.

Career and Alternative Education

Classroom Protocols: Normal school days at MCIA, PTC, and PTCC have small numbers of students on campus given the nature of our programs. However, on days of blended instruction at MCIA, there may be up to 25 students at one time. Students will be taught classroom procedures that will ensure social distancing protocols and good hygiene are practiced at all times. Teachers will be responsible for cleaning surface areas in between student appointments in preparation for their next student. Each school site has established routes of ingress and egress on each campus. These routes will be instructed to all students and parents as they access the campus for the first time, and reinforced as needed throughout the rest of the year.

Restroom Protocols:

Madera County Independent Academy (MCIA): Students will be on campus for both independent study appointments as well as blended instructional periods. While days of blended instruction will be split for each teacher there could be as many as 25 students on campus at any time. Teachers will have designated times for restroom breaks for students so as not to co-mingle students from within their own class or with students from other classes. Students have access to student restrooms and MCSOS maintenance personnel will disinfect restrooms 2-3 times per day.

Pioneer Technical Center (PTC): Students will be on campus for individual appointments only on a daily basis and will have restrooms available to them between rooms 7 and 8 for use throughout the day. There are also restrooms available in the front office should students need these spaces as well. MCSOS maintenance personnel will disinfect restrooms 2-3 times per day.

Pioneer Technical Center, Chowchilla (PTCC): Students will be on campus for individual appointments only on a daily basis and will have restrooms available in the main office for use throughout the day. MCSOS maintenance and Chowchilla Union High School maintenance personnel will disinfect restrooms 2-3 times per day.

Instructional materials: Students meeting in independent study generally have their own personal supplies for use during their appointments. All instructional materials are provided to students including books, technology (Chromebook and hotspot), paper supplies, etc. Students in need of normally shared items will be given individual supplies to accomplish assignments. While students will be required to bring their MCSOS issued devices to their appointments, sani-wipes will be provided for students to practice cleaning devices when necessary.

Food and Drink protocols: Students may be provided individual morning snacks for blended learning. If so, students would be required to eat at their desks behind their designated plexiglass barriers. Teachers will be responsible for trash collection handled in a manner that upholds social distancing and good hygiene norms. While drinking fountains will not be available, water bottles will be provided for students. Water refill stations are available at MCI which are hands-free stations, and may be available for student use.

Maintenance Procedures: All classrooms, common areas, and restrooms will be maintained on a daily basis to include thorough cleaning and disinfecting. These areas also include all common flat surfaces, light switches, and door handles. Student and staff restrooms will be maintained multiple times per day including fogging on at least a daily basis or more as needed.