On August 24, 2020, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) released guidance to districts to allow for limited in-person services to certain students receiving special education services. The Wasco Union Elementary School District has determined to offer these educational services to students assigned to Special Day Classrooms (SDC).

**Special Education:** Cohorts of Mild to Moderate and Moderate to Severe SDC Classes will resume daily face-to-face instruction with teachers and aides on October 13, 2020. This date marks the first day of the second quarter of the school year. Medically fragile students and parents opting out of this service will continue with a 100% distance-learning model of instruction.

- Certain itinerant supports for special education will resume face-to-face service for individual students if deemed safe to do so.
- Psychological and Speech Assessments will resume with face-to-face interaction following CDPH health and safety guidelines.

**SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES – CLASSROOM SETTING**

**WUESD Special Education Cohorts (16 Person Maximum) – Half Day In-Person Regular Instruction**

**Instructional Day:** Half-days of instruction for SDC students are necessary to accommodate the nearly 20% of students that will be remaining on a distance learning instructional option due to health and medical concerns. SDC teachers will provide online instructional activities to students during the remaining hours of daily instructional time.

**Staggered Start Times:**
- **Group One:** Monday-Friday: 8:00 to 11:00am
- **Group Two:** Monday-Friday: 9:30 to 12:30pm

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Teacher</th>
<th>Site</th>
<th>Start Time</th>
<th>Dismissal Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Wright</td>
<td>James A. Forrest</td>
<td>8:00 AM</td>
<td>11:00 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Yates</td>
<td>James A. Forrest</td>
<td>9:30 AM</td>
<td>12:30 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Moreno</td>
<td>Teresa Burke</td>
<td>9:30 AM</td>
<td>12:30 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Stowell</td>
<td>Teresa Burke</td>
<td>9:30 AM</td>
<td>12:30 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. McCurdy</td>
<td>John L. Prueitt</td>
<td>8:00 AM</td>
<td>11:00 AM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs. Miller</td>
<td>Palm Avenue</td>
<td>8:00 AM</td>
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<td>Mr. Holmes</td>
<td>Palm Avenue</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miss Villanueva</td>
<td>Thomas Jefferson</td>
<td>8:00 AM</td>
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School Offices: All school offices are available to you by phone during the hours of 8:00 to 4:00pm each day your child is at school. If you need to speak with office staff in-person, please call the office to schedule a visit. When you visit the school office, facemasks will be required when visiting the office, your temperature will be taken, and you will need to answer a few basic health screening questions before you can enter school premises. The Special Education Services Building located at 639 Broadway is open for business during school hours, and no prior appointment is necessary.

Transportation: To limit exposure to COVID-19, parents are encouraged to provide transportation to and from school. However, school busses and vehicles will be running for special day class students for both pick-up and drop-off each school day as necessary. Students from a single classroom must travel together in a single group or “cohort” to limit exposure to the virus. To accomplish this, the district must use one or more busses per class. There are not enough busses in the district to allow all students to begin school at the same time. This explains why the district is running students to school on a “staggered start” schedule.

Staffing: The regular classroom teacher and a full complement of classroom aides will be on-site for all in-person instruction in SDC. Administrative support, substitute teachers, and itinerant support personnel will be available as necessary following CPHD guidelines.

Foodservice: Meals will be distributed to your child at the end of each half-day of school during parent pick-up or bus drop-off. No meals may be consumed on campus unless it is medically required for your child. Please make these arrangements with your school principal before classes resume.

Parents on Campus: No parents are permitted on campus during this limited COVID-19 reopening for special education students. Emergencies will be the only exception. Any unnecessary interaction with other students in a cohort would open the entire cohort to exposure to COVID-19.

Health and Safety:

Cohorts/Physical Distancing:

- Each classroom of students will be separated from other classes to create what the CDPH calls a “cohort”. This complete separation of cohorts reduce the possibility of large scale spreading of the virus. Students will only engage with the individuals assigned to their cohort.
- Facilities and vehicles will be disinfected after each use by a cohort.
- The use of outdoor space for activities will be maximized when practicable. Play areas will be assigned to specific cohorts to prevent cross-contamination.
- Classroom arrangements will allow for maximum distance between desks and workspaces wherever possible. This will vary based on specific student needs.
- Drinking fountains will be closed to prevent the spread of the virus. Parents are asked to provide a water bottle from home for their child. District water bottles will provided to students as needed.
- Signage regarding COVID-19 safety is prominently visible in locations around campuses to remind students and adults to practice social distancing.
Health Screenings:

**Students:** Prior to sending children to school, all parents will be expected to pre-screen their child for COVID-19 symptoms or exposure using the “Daily Home Screening for Students” form. (attached)

**Students should not be sent to school if they meet any of the criteria on the home screening form.**

- Before entering campus or a school bus, students will have their temperature scanned with a touchless thermometer and undergo a simple visual and verbal health screening. Students with a temperature or are exhibiting signs of illness will not be permitted to come to school.
- Any student exhibiting symptoms upon arrival to school or while on school grounds will be immediately isolated in the school’s designated isolation area and parent/guardian will be contacted for immediate pickup.
- Students with COVID-like symptoms will not be permitted to return to school until they have met CDC criteria to discontinue home isolation. This criteria includes at least three days with no fever, symptoms have improved, and at least ten days since symptoms first appeared, or a medical clearance stating the symptoms were not related to COVID-19.

**School Staff:** All staff will be expected to perform a self-assessment prior to entering the school campus using the Daily Home Screening form.

- Staff should will not report to work if they meet any of the criteria on the home screening form.
- Before entering campus, staff will have their temperature checked with a touchless thermometer and undergo a brief visual health screening by district health staff.
- Staff that exhibit symptoms upon arrival or while on school grounds will be sent home, or immediately isolated in the designated isolation area.

**Personal Protection Equipment (PPE):** Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is available as needed by classroom teachers and students: disposable facemasks, face shields, disposable gowns, and gloves. The district requires students, grade 2 and above, and staff to wear a facemask.

- All adults are required to wear a facemask on school grounds when social distancing is impossible.
- All students in grades 2-8 are required to wear facemasks or approved coverings on campus.
- All students in grades TK-1 are encouraged, but not required, to wear facemasks or approved coverings on campus.
- Anyone who is otherwise unable to remove a face covering without assistance is exempt from wearing a face covering.
- A facemask or face shield may be removed in limited circumstances, or when needing to be replaced.
- In limited situations where a face covering cannot be used for pedagogical or developmental reasons, a face shield will be used instead of a cloth face covering or face mask while in the classroom as long as the wearer maintains physical distance from others.
- Disposable facemasks will be provided to students if needed.

**Healthy Hygiene Practices, Handwashing, Hand Sanitizer**

**Hand Washing:** All students will have access to handwashing stations. Teachers will instruct, model, and assist students with proper hygiene practices including handwashing and hand sanitizing.

- All students will engage in regular hand washing and sanitizing throughout the day, specifically before entering and exiting the bathrooms or other school buildings.
Positive COVID-19 Case Response Plan – (Adapted from CDPH Response Plan)

Suspected Cases:

- Any students or staff exhibiting symptoms will immediately be required to wear a facemask and wait in the school’s isolation area.
- Students or staff with any identified COVID-19 symptoms and/or a temperature of 100 or higher will be sent home immediately until testing and/or medical evaluation has been conducted.
- COVID-19 testing is recommended. Free tests are available at the Wasco Public Library located at 1102 7th St.

Suspected Cases with Negative Test Result:

- Persons presenting COVID-like symptoms, who test negative for COVID-19 may return 72 hours after resolution of fever (if any) and improvement in symptoms.
- Documentation of a negative test result should be provided to school district.
- In lieu of a negative test result, students may return to school with a medical note by a physician that provides an alternative explanation for symptoms and reason for not ordering COVID-19 testing.

Positive Cases and Close Contacts:

Parents and guardians of students or staff should notify school staff immediately if a student or staff member has tested positive for COVID-19 or if one of their household members or non-household close contacts tested positive for COVID-19.

Schools Will:

- Immediately relocate potentially exposed students and staff to an isolation room to await pickup.
- Contact the parents of students who are potentially exposed.
- Send potentially exposed students/staff home until KCPH can conduct contact tracing to confirm exposure.
- Disinfect areas of potential exposure.
- Provide distance-learning options for the students sent home.

Confirmed COVID-19 Cases and Exposures:

- Those with a confirmed exposure are required to remain at home until they are released to return by KCPH based on the criteria outlined in the "Return to School or Work" section below.
- The district will work closely with KCPH to determine if a limited or full school closure is warranted.
- Communicate the confirmed exposure and/or limited or full school closures and next steps to stakeholders, while preserving confidentiality (e.g., do not use any identifying information regarding persons who test positive when communicating about COVID cases).
- An HR representative should reach out to any impacted employees regarding leave considerations.
- Disinfect areas of confirmed exposures.
School Closure Protocols:

Full or partial closures are recommended based on the number of cases, the percentage of the teacher/students/staff that are positive for COVID-19, and following consultation with Kern County Public Health.

- A classroom will close, when: There is one positive case in a classroom.
- A school closes, when: At least 5 percent of the total number of teachers/student/staff are cases within a 14-day period, depending on the size and physical layout of the school.
- An entire school district closes, when: 25% or more of schools in a district have closed due to COVID-19 within 14 days, and in consultation with the local public health department.

School Re-opening Protocols (After Closure for COVID-19):

Typically, reopening may occur after 14 days and the following have occurred:

- Cleaning and disinfection
- Public health investigation
- Consultation with the local public health department

Return to School

Positive Cases and Close Contacts: KCPH or a physician may provide a written clearance form upon request of the person completing isolation, based on the following protocols. This clearance form may be used by the school to clear students and staff to return to the school site. In absence of this written clearance, the following timelines are followed:

- Symptomatic individuals who test positive for COVID-19 may return 10 days after symptoms first appeared. Symptoms must have improved and the person must be fever-free for 72 hours.
- Asymptomatic individuals who test positive for COVID-19 may return 10 days after their positive test result.
- Close household contacts of confirmed COVID-19 cases should remain at home and self-monitor for symptoms for 14 days AFTER the date that the COVID-19 positive household member completes their isolation.
- Close non-household contacts of confirmed COVID-19 cases should remain at home and self-monitor for symptoms for 14 days after the last exposure to a COVID-19 non-household contact.

Indirect Contact: No action is necessary for persons who have NOT had direct close contact to a confirmed COVID-19 case, but who have had close contact with persons who were in direct contact.

In Closing

As a parent during these difficult times, we understand that you may have questions or personal needs regarding your child while at school. Never hesitate to reach out to your child’s teacher or the school office for assistance. We look forward to serving your child in normal circumstances as soon as it is possible to do so without endangering the health of others.