

Summerville Union High School District

17555 Tuolumne Road, Tuolumne, CA 95379 (209) 928-3498
FAX (209) 928-1321

Summerville High School Campus: (209) 928-4228
FAX: (209) 928-1422



Superintendent Michael Merrill

Board of Education * Hans deGroot * Randy Richter * Dennis Spisak * Bret Taylor * David Atkins

Summerville Union High School District Safe Re-Opening Plan 2021-2022

Based on the COVID 19 virus pandemic, Summerville Union High School District has updated the Re-Opening Plan for the 2021-2022 school year to comply with the most recent Update in Health Guidance (2/28/2022) from Governor Newsom and the CDPH to protect students, staff and our community to the best of our ability from transmission of the virus. To that end the following plan will address specific areas of focus to mitigate this transmission.

School started on August 25, 2021 in a 100% in-person learning format. All safety precautions will be taken as per guidance from Centers for Disease Control (CDC), California Department of Public Health (CDPH), California Occupational Health and Safety Administration (Cal/OSHA), Tuolumne County Public Health, and our weekly Superintendents' conversation with the Tuolumne County Public Health Officer and his team of professionals.

For the 2021-2022 school year, school facilities (fields, gyms, classrooms) are slowly opening to outside agencies with facility use permits so long as the group has submitted a completed facility use permit and a Safety Plan approved by the Tuolumne County Public Health Department, the Tuolumne County Public Health Officer and the Summerville High facility use committee deems the facilities safe for use.

Sports Competitions are allowed under a plan crafted by the Athletic Directors and Principals of each of the Mother Lode League Schools with the three Public Health officials (Amador, Calaveras and Tuolumne) agreement. Competitions for all sports programs will start on a regular schedule when the 2021-2022 school year starts. COVID testing for all participants and coaches or advisors of our sports or extra-curricular programs happens on site weekly with TCSOS nurses and our school staff. This weekly testing is being reexamined by the Public Health Officers of Amador, Calaveras and Tuolumne counties to see if the weekly testing will remain or be discontinued.

General Measures

Summerville Union High School District Superintendent, Principal and Deputy Principal continue to be in at least weekly communication with the other Superintendents in the county, as well as our Public Health Officer and his staff to stay up to date with the most recent data regarding the active cases, hospitalizations, recoveries and deaths of the residents of Tuolumne County. In addition, we are sharing information about how to educate our communities, respond to the needs that the pandemic creates and provide resources for those in need.

This plan is created and is being revised to provide for the safety of our students and staff as they interact in the learning environment both indoors and outdoors.

We continue to conduct risk assessments with the use of our school's task force made up of stakeholders from students, staff and parents. As a Superintendent's group we have used the state of California's checklist to address the risks that we can face as people come together. These risk assessments in addition to the CDC and CDPH guidance have been discussed and will be implemented in our plan which you will see in upcoming sections.

Our Administration has continued to provide weekly updates to our students, staff and community with regard to ways to help mitigate the transmission of the virus, proper hygiene practices, social distancing, and most importantly, wearing masks when indoors. According to the Updated Health Guidance message delivered by Governor Newsom and Dr. Ghaly on February 28, 2022, masking indoors will be recommended but not required as of 11:59 pm March 11, 2022.

In accordance with the CDPH Guidance document, all staff complete a daily online self-screening application to determine if they have any COVID symptoms.

Our plan continues to focus on being certain that we are implementing the plan with fidelity and that if there are any compliance issues that we will address those and remedy them immediately.

- **Promote Healthy Hygiene Practices**

- A key part of our safely returning to school is educating our students and staff about proper handwashing techniques, avoiding contact with one's eyes, nose and mouth, covering coughs and sneezes using tissues or the elbow and washing hands afterward.
- The school continues to provide face coverings in compliance with CDPH guidelines for each student or staff member that does not have their own. This will continue to be our practice after the mask mandate goes away on March 12, 2022 if people request a face covering. We have hand sanitizer containers that are JPA approved for use by students in each classroom and workspace.
- As a part of our ongoing education, CDPH and CDC recommend to all students and staff that they consider being vaccinated against COVID-19 and immunized against influenza unless contraindicated by personal medical conditions.

This section of the Safe Reopening Plan will be removed as of 11:59 pm March 11, 2022 in accordance with the February 28, 2022 Updated Health Guidance message delivered by Governor Newsom and Dr. Ghaly.

- **Ensure Teacher and Staff Safety**

- Daily symptom monitoring procedures to screen for COVID symptoms is done for all staff via an online self-screening app.
- If a staff member is at higher risk for severe illness or cannot safely distance from household contacts who are at higher risk and presents these concerns to administration, every effort will be made to accommodate the needs.

- **Intensify Campus Cleaning, Disinfection, and Ventilation**

- All facilities will be sanitized daily by our custodial/maintenance staff in preparation for the arrival of students and staff.
- Our Custodial/Maintenance team is responsible for monitoring and providing the approved products for use against COVID19 in each classroom/workspace according to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Each will be trained to use the materials as well as be provided with any necessary PPE for its use.
- Maintenance and Custodial use foggers from Victory Innovation Company that are proven to kill virus on the spot. These foggers will be used according to the specifications which include them being sprayed after hours so the active material can dry in place.
- The Director of Maintenance Operation and Transportation will be responsible for establishing a cleaning and disinfecting schedule (see attached schedule) that avoids under and over use of cleaning and sanitizing products. Any products that are not to be with or around students will be used after students and other staff have left the area.

- Ventilation is critical in the school environment. Vents will be set so that the rooms are constantly venting during the time that students and staff are present. Proper ventilation is especially important as custodial staff are cleaning and disinfecting the premises. Our HVAC units have recently been upgraded or replaced, so filter changes will be addressed as per CDPH guidelines. We use cloth filters in our HVAC units which filtrate at a higher rate than the paper filters.
- Water testing will be done as per state water testing code to make sure that all water is safe to consume. Our water is already treated and tested daily by Tuolumne Utility District, but we will monitor on site as well.

Implementing Distancing Inside and Outside the Classroom

• Arrival and Departure

- We will maximize the amount of space between students as well as between students and bus driver on school buses to the extent practicable. Windows will be opened to the greatest extent practicable to provide for air flow. Face coverings are recommended, but not required for students and staff on K-12 buses or vans as of March 12, 2022. Hand sanitizer will be available at the entrance of each bus.
- Online health app screenings at the start of each day for staff. We are also asking that parents do a preliminary screening for COVID symptoms at home before students leave for school.
- All buses, classrooms, offices and other student areas will have a supply of masks and hand sanitizer in the event that a student forgot to bring one and they wish to wear a face covering by choice.

• Classroom Space

- Outside spaces can be maximized for classroom lessons, choir and PE activities to the extent possible. Band is permitted outdoors under CDPH guidance. We are prepared and many band instruments are fitted with pre-approved filters to prevent the excess flow of exhaled droplets as the class is held outdoors.
- Classrooms will have the regular number of desks as normal, allowing for separation between students and staff. Staff members are still to be six feet from students. All staff have been asked to remove extraneous materials from their classrooms or workspaces to allow for more space between people and to make cleaning and sanitizing less obtrusive. Only critical educational materials should be in the room. Each classroom will have hand sanitizer at the door, extra masks and antiviral wipes.
- Director of Maintenance has provided plexiglass screens in office workspaces for separation between the employees and the public. As well they are provided for each classroom for teachers to have a protected space.

• Non-Classroom Space

- Summerville Union High School District has implemented a policy limiting non-essential visitors, volunteers or any outside groups. Our facilities are available to outside groups for rental or use only with submission of a facility use permit and a safety plan that has been approved by Tuolumne County Public Health. Visitors will still be limited based on guidance from CDPH and local Public Health.
- Any facility that is used by our students or staff will be a part of the regular daily cleaning and disinfecting process.
- All eating and socialization will happen outside as weather permits or in areas where students can be socially distanced. The cafeteria is open for students to get their food and to eat indoors at tables.

• Transportation:

- School buses and vans will be thoroughly cleaned and sanitized between each route. The Victory fogger is also used to sanitize the vehicles transporting students.
- Students will be provided access to hand sanitizer on each vehicle, and distance to the extent practicable between people will be observed. Windows will be down to provide maximum air flow during the ride to or from school.
- **Independent Study**
 - Students that do not wish to attend in person classes have the opportunity to attend classes through our Independent Study program where we have two full-time teachers providing the work and interaction between the student and teacher.
 - In the event that the school should have to close for a period of time due to not being able to adequately staff certificated and/or classified positions, the school will transition to an independent study format where students are able to access their work and their teachers through Google classroom.
 - Master Agreements are required for Independent Study so each teacher will provide work to meet the students' curricular needs and the Master Service agreements must be completed within 30 days of the start of the independent study session.
 - If school closure should occur due to the inability to adequately staff the school, the decision to close will be done in consultation with the Tuolumne County Office of Education and the California Department of Education. School will re-open as soon as it is practicable to adequately staff the school.

Train All Staff and Educate Families

Through continued professional development and staff meetings, we will work to educate our staff about the best methods to prevent the spread of the virus. We will also work with our families through our weekly campus updates to educate them on what we are doing at school to prevent the spread of the virus and what they can do to assist us and our community to flatten the curve of the COVID 19 virus.

- Safety and Educational messages will continue until such time as we have beat this virus.
- There are modules about virus protection in our getsafetytrained.com online mandatory training that all staff must complete. This module is also available for students and parents as well.

Check for Signs and Symptoms

- The District asks that students and parents work together to make sure that if students are not feeling well, they stay home. Staff is responsible for self-screening and the app communicates with the District Office daily. If there is a potential health issue with a student or staff member, they will be provided absolute privacy and confidentiality under HIPAA and FERPA. Students and staff will be encouraged to stay home if they have been in close contact with someone that is COVID 19 positive or are experiencing COVID-like symptoms.
- All of our protocols and policies will be provided to our students and staff so that they know about confidentiality, their right to stay home or use sick leave without fear of retribution.
- No policy will be instituted that would penalize a student for missing class due to symptoms of illness potentially related to COVID 19.
- As previously mentioned hand sanitizer will be available in each classroom and each work space.

Plan for When a Staff Member, Child or Visitor Becomes Sick

- Summerville High School has a task force that is responsible for working with Public Health, families and emergency care workers if needed during this pandemic.
- Any student feeling ill that is sent to the office or comes to the office on his or her own accord, will be asked to wear a mask if he/she is not already and will be segregated in the health room. If that room becomes too crowded or unsafe for other students, then the Superintendent's office or Room 705 will be used as a back-up.
- Our first-line office staff will work with the student to ascertain what is not feeling well, call for emergency services if needed, contact parent to pick up the student as well as engage the rest of the task force team if contact tracing questions need to be answered through Public Health.
- If a staff member suggests that he/she does not feel well, he/she will be asked put on a mask if they are not already wearing one, asked to go home if they are ok to drive home or provided transport by an office staff member if they need assistance.
 - Students or staff will be escorted to our confidential health room until such time as a parent can come and pick them up or they are safe to drive themselves home.
 - If at any time anyone is experiencing breathing issues or any other potential emergency condition, 911 will be called.
- Public Health will be contacted after we work with a student or parent if there is a feeling that the person will need to be tested and either isolated or quarantined. Our task force will work with Public Health to get phone numbers and addresses to them for any potential contact tracing that will be required.
- The area where the ill student or staff member was located prior to being in the office will be closed off and immediately cleaned and sanitized prior to any other people going in the area.
 - In the event of Public Health notifying the school of a concern, the area may be left for 24 hours prior to the heavy sanitizing so as to not infect one of our custodial or maintenance workers.
- Anyone that has been isolated or quarantined under advisement of Public Health, will be told that they cannot return to the campus until they have met the CDC criteria to discontinue home isolation which includes being fever free for at least 24 hours without fever reducing medication and at least five days have elapsed since the onset of the first symptoms. The newest guidance after masking mandate elapses states that anyone that has to quarantine due to positive test must do so for 5 days. They may test daily after day 5 to obtain a negative test to return from quarantine. They may return to campus with a negative test after day 5, but will be expected to wear a mask for the full 10 days after the onset of symptoms.
- Students will continue to be provided with instructional materials during the time that they are either isolating or quarantining.
- Summerville Union High School District will continue to participate in the weekly zoom calls with our Public Health Officer and all Superintendents so that we have the most up to date information to share with our stakeholders in our weekly campus updates.
 - We will also observe guidelines from CDPH as well as information from the state and federal government about responding to COVID 19 in the Workplace.
- Summerville Union High School District uses the CDPH/Tuolumne County Health Department Flow Chart for isolation and quarantining protocols.

Maintain Health Operations

As a part of our ongoing education and information gathering, we will continue to monitor staff and student absenteeism and share with Public Health any trends we may be seeing. As students and staff returned to campus in the fall of 2021, we have continued to monitor the types of illnesses and any symptoms they are experiencing and isolate them (wearing masks) promptly.

We have our Health Task Force trained and ready to respond as needed. All staff will know who our task force members are. Their task is to be a team of people to liaise with Public Health to coordinate all documentation and gather information necessary to assist Public Health in tracking/tracing. Additionally, the general information will be shared with all students, staff and community members should we have a positive case of COVID 19. A key part of this task force's job is to maintain people's privacy and confidentiality under HIPAA and FERPA regulations.

- We have a phone call system set up to contact our Attendance Line so parents can self-report symptoms. This line will also notify them to contact the local Public Health department to self-report.
- Our School Messenger system (voice message and email with attachments) will continue to be used for the Weekly Campus Update as it has been used since this all started, but it will also be used to notify our students, staff and community in the event of a positive test and what this means for classes, cohorts and the school overall, but no identifying information will be shared.
- We will support all students and staff that are at higher risk for severe illness or those that cannot safely distance from household contacts at higher risk by accommodating them through distance learning/remote teaching or Independent Study.
- **Summerville Union High Health Task Force:**
 - Steve Sweitzer, Deputy Principal (Lead)
 - Jamee Dahl, Secretary
 - Trichelle Clark, Attendance Clerk
 - Cindy Jensen, Chief Business Official
 - Andrea Ransom, Executive Assistant
 - Michael Merrill, Superintendent

Considerations for Reopening and Partial or Total Closures

Our Administrative Team will remain in contact with our County Superintendent, Public Health Official and any other entities that we rely on for the transmission of current up to date information so we continue to adjust our operations accordingly.

Summerville Union High School District employees will be supported by the district through labor laws, leave time, as well as provided information on government programs supporting sick leave and worker's compensation for COVID 19.

Under our Governor's Executive Order N-62-20, we will continue to remind all students, staff and parents to:

- practice physical distancing in the community and on campus
- not gather in large groups above recommended levels
- use handwashing routines regularly
- use hand sanitizer
- wear a face covering when indoors (recommended not required after March 11, 2022)

Attachments

CDPH Guidelines

MOT Cleaning/Sanitizing Schedule

Classroom Cleaning/Sanitizing checklist

Transportation Cleaning/Sanitizing checklist

Resources

www.cdc.org (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)

www.cdph.ca.gov (California Department of Public Health)

www.tuolumnecounty.ca.gov (Tuolumne County Public Health Department)

www.dir.ca.gov (Cal/OSHA—Division of Occupational Safety and Health)

www.tcsos.us (Tuolumne County Superintendent of Schools Office)

www.summbears.net (Summerville Union High School District)

General Checklist for Schools

<https://files.covid19.ca.gov/pdf/checklist-schools--en.pdf>

Schools Guidance FAQ's

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Schools-FAQ.aspx>

Education Waiver process

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/In-Person-Elementary-Waiver-Process.aspx>

Waiver Letter Template and Cover Form

https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/CDPH%20Document%20Library/COVID-19/Waiver-Letter-Template-Cover-Form_8.3.2020.pdf

Waiver Notice

https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/CDPH%20Document%20Library/COVID-19/CDPH-Waiver-Notice_8.3.2020.pdf

Youth Sports FAQ

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Youth-Sports-FAQ.aspx>

Facebook pages

Summerville High School: <https://www.facebook.com/GoSummBears>

Connection Visual and Performing Arts Academy: <https://www.facebook.com/connectionsvpaa>

Radio Stations and Print Media

- KVML 1450 AM
- KZSQ 92.7 FM
- KKBN 93.5 FM
- mymotherlode.com

Board Approved 3.9.2022 with revisions