



COUNTY OF IMPERIAL

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

JANETTE ANGULO, M.P.A.
Director

STEPHEN MUNDAY, M.D., M.P.H., M.S.
Health Officer

October 1, 2020

Dear District Superintendent, Charter School Director, or Private School Head:

On Monday August 31, 2020, California introduced the Blueprint for a Safer Economy for reducing COVID-19 in the state with revised criteria for loosening and tightening restrictions on activities. Per the State of California, schools in Tier 1 aren't permitted to reopen for in-person instruction, unless they receive a waiver from their local health department.

In counties in Tier 1 (purple tier), the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) guidance allows a district superintendent, private school head, or director of a charter school (hereinafter superintendent) to apply for a waiver from the local health officer to open an elementary school for in-person instruction. This waiver is applicable only for grades TK-6. In Imperial County, waivers will be accepted starting Monday, October 5, 2020.

When applying for the waiver, the superintendent must submit to the local health officer evidence of (1) consultation with labor and parent organization and (2) publication of the elementary school reopening plans on the website of the local educational agency (or equivalent). The local health officer then reviews the application and reopening plan (along with local community epidemiological data), makes a determination whether to grant or deny the waiver, and consults with CDPH regarding that determination.

In order to apply for a waiver, please complete and submit the attached Application Cover Form.

An application must contain:

- Documentation that the school or district currently is in compliance, as interpreted by the Imperial County Public Health Officer, with California's COVID-19 Industry [Guidance for Schools and School-based Programs](#), [guidance related to cohorts](#) of children and youth, and if applicable, guidance related to childcare.
- Attestation that the superintendent (equivalent or designated staff) has consulted with all parent and labor organizations at each school site for which an application is being submitted. If no labor organization represents the school site staff, then consultation with school site staff is sufficient.

- A plan that demonstrates that cohorts of no more than 14 children and no more than 2 supervising adults (or configuration of no more than 16 individuals total in the cohort) will be maintained. Please note that exceptions related to cohorts and maximum number of children per classroom may be granted by the health officer on a case-by-case basis.
- Confirmation that elementary school reopening plans have been published on the website of the local educational agency (or equivalent). Reopening plans must address the components in the CDPH [Guidance for Schools and School-based Programs](#) (which are also listed in the attached Application Cover Form). The document must describe the routine COVID-19 testing plan, if any, for staff and students, as well as the plan for testing and contact tracing when a case of COVID-19, or an exposure occurs in the school.

Please submit applications and all supporting documents via email to the Imperial County Public Health Department at least 14 working days prior to the desired reopening date to janetteangulo@co.imperial.ca.us.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

4C586F2DAE5F458...

Stephen Munday, M.D., M.P.H.