



PROPOSAL FOR IN-PERSON LEARNING OPERATIONS

Guidelines for implementation to reduce the potential risk and transmission of COVID-19.

Tulare County Office of Education
AcCEL Program

RECOMMENDATION GUIDELINES FOR CLASSROOM OPERATIONS

Overview

This document provides guidelines for the Tulare County Office of Education, AcCEL Program, Pre-Kindergarten through the Community Based Instruction classrooms for operation and COVID-19 symptom screening. Recommendations on the following topics include:

- A. Employee Self-Checks
- B. Safety Measures for Staff
- C. Safety Measures for Students
- D. Classroom Environment and Arrangement
- E. Transportation
- F. Classroom Schedules
- G. Parent Basic Health and Safety Measures

Background

The number of reported children with SARS COV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19) infection, differs from adults in the severity of symptoms, types of symptoms, and experiences of symptoms.

COVID-19 is a newly identified disease. Scientist are still learning about how it spreads, how it impacts children, and what role children may play in its spread. Limited data about COVID 19 in children suggest that children are less likely to get COVID 19 than adults, and if they do contract COVID-19, they generally have less serious illness than adults. While uncommon, deaths and rare illness such as multisystem inflammatory syndrome is children (MIS-C) may still occur.

COVID-19 is caused by SARS COV-2. It is spread primarily by respiratory droplets. When someone with COVID-19 coughs or sneezes, respiratory droplets that contain the

virus are expelled and can be breathed in by someone nearby. Although the virus cannot enter the body through the skin, the respiratory droplets that carry the virus can get into individual's airways or mucous membranes via eyes, nose, and mouth to infect individuals.

Influenza (Flu) and COVID-19 are both contagious respiratory illnesses, but they are caused by different viruses. COVID-19 is caused by infection with a new coronavirus (called SARS-CoV-2) and flu is caused by infection with influenza viruses. Because some of the symptoms of flu and COVID-19 are similar, it may be hard to tell the difference between them based on symptoms alone, and testing may be needed to help confirm a diagnosis.

The overlap between COVID-19 symptoms with other common illnesses means that many people with symptoms of COVID-19 may actually be ill with something else. This is even more likely in young children, who typically have multiple viral illnesses each year. For example, it is common for young children to have up to eight respiratory illnesses or "colds" every year. Although COVID-19 and illnesses like colds or the flu have similar symptoms, they are different disease processes.

Some studies have tried to identify which symptoms may best predict whether an individual has COVID-19, although these studies have primarily focused on those over 18-years-old. In children, fever has been the most frequently reported symptom. However, fever is common in many other illnesses, and temperatures can be taken improperly and falsely interpreted as fever. Additionally, there is no symptom or set of symptoms that only occurs in children diagnosed with COVID-19.

Additionally, students with chronic conditions like asthma or allergies may have symptoms like cough or nasal congestion without having any infection at all. As a result, symptom screenings have the potential to exclude some students from school repeatedly even though they do not have COVID-19 or any contagious illness. This in turn may worsen disparities in students who already miss school frequently because of chronic medical conditions.

Students who are sick with contagious illnesses should not attend school, but most illnesses do not require the same level or length of isolation that COVID-19 does. Excluding students from school for longer than what is called for in existing school policies (e.g., fever free without medication for 24-hours) based on COVID-19 symptoms alone risks repeated, long-term unnecessary student absence.

Flu and COVID-19 share many characteristics, but there are some key differences between the two.

Refer to Appendix A.

Flu	COVID-19
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Flu viruses can cause mild to severe illness• Typically, a person develops symptoms anywhere from 1 to 4 days after infection.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Other signs and symptoms of COVID-19, different from flu, may include change in or loss of taste or smell (this has not been reported with the pediatric patients).• If a person has COVID-19, it could take them longer to develop symptoms than if they had flu. Typically, a person develops symptoms 5 days after being infected, but symptoms can appear as early as 2 days after infection or as late as 14 days after infection, and the time range can vary.

A. Employee Self-Checks

It is imperative as TCOE AcCEL Employees to complete a daily self-check for COVID-19 symptoms, prior to arriving to work.

Self-check includes the following:

1. Do I have a fever more than 100.4 F?
2. Do I have a cough NOT due to a chronic or known condition?
3. Am I having difficulty breathing?
4. Do I have chills, muscle pain, sore throat, or loss of taste and/or smell?

If you answered “yes” to any of these questions, **DO NOT COME TO WORK**. Call your program manager and report your absence in Frontline.

B. Safety Measures for Staff

1. Staff will be required to wear a face mask at all times.
2. Staff will practice frequent hand washing or use of hand sanitizer throughout the school day.
3. Staff will practice social distancing as much as possible, while still providing students with continuous monitoring and supervision.
4. Staff will engage in frequent disinfecting of classroom surfaces including desks, tables, door handles, and other frequently touched areas or surfaces.
5. Nursing staff will have access to additional personal protective equipment such as gloves, eye protection and disposable medical gowns when providing certain medical procedures.

C. Safety Measures for Students

Daily Student Check for COVID-19 Symptoms:

1. Before AcCel Staff go out to meet students at the designated drop off point.
 - a. Ensure that your face mask is in place.
 - b. Wash hands 20 seconds with soap and water.
 - c. Put on gloves.
 - d. Keep your hands away from your face.
 - e. Take Thermal Scan Thermometer to check student’s temperature and record.

2. Meet students at the designated bus drop off point.
 - a. If the parent is dropping the student off, the parent is to meet the TCOE employee outside the school gate where the child's temperature is checked.
 - b. Monitor each student's temperature before they enter the gate area. Look at each student, do they appear sick (red or flushed, cough)?
 - c. If, upon arrival to school, a student has a fever of 100.0 F or higher, the teacher is to contact the School Nurse/Program Manager. The parent is to be notified of the student's elevated temperature, and the student will be sent home immediately.
 - d. If a student should appear sick during the school day, the student's *temperature* will be monitored; if the student's temperature is 100.0 F or higher, the student's parent will notified and informed that the student needs to be picked up immediately. If able, mask student, and isolate the student.
 - e. All students arriving to school should wash their hands with soap and water initially for 20 seconds, maintaining social distancing.
3. Upon return to the classroom, staff members should appropriately remove gloves, throw gloves away, and wash hands with soap and water for 20 seconds.

Student Classroom Guidelines:

1. Encourage students wear face coverings in the classroom.
2. Staff should develop routines enabling students and staff to regularly wash their hands at staggered intervals. Students should be directed to wash their hands with soap and water initially upon arrival to school; to wash their hands with soap and water or hand sanitizer throughout the school day; and at the end of the day before bus departure.
3. Students will be taught or reminded to use tissue to wipe their nose and to cough/sneeze inside a tissue or their elbow; and to throw their used tissue immediately in the trash.
4. Adequate supplies to support healthy hygiene behaviors, including soap, tissues, face coverings, hand sanitizers for staff and students will be available at all times.

Refer to Appendix B and C.

D. Classroom Environment and Arrangement

1. Staff will be required to wash their hands with soap and water frequently throughout the work day for a minimum of 20 seconds. Staff may use hand sanitizer after touching any shared surface or supplies.
2. Staff should avoid touching their face at all times.
3. Teachers should assign students their own personal materials/manipulatives for daily use, and store them independently from other student's personal items. These objects should be disinfected at the end of the day.
4. Teacher and support staff should not cross contaminate classroom objects or manipulatives from one student to another before disinfecting object/manipulatives.
5. All staff should ensure to maintain physical distancing from each other which is critical to reducing transmission between adults.
6. Ensure that all staff work-stations are arranged 6 feet apart from one another.
7. Use physical guides, such as tape on floors and signs on the walls to promote student and staff social distancing.
8. Ensure that staff, minimize or eliminate the sharing of office supplies (pencils/pens/scissors/staplers). Computers and keyboards should be disinfected.
9. Staff should role model and continue to reinforce the importance of social distancing with students.
10. Staff will provide frequent disinfecting of classroom surfaces including desks, tables, door handles, light switches, and other frequently touched areas or surfaces.

E. Transportation, Arrival and Departure

1. STA will ensure a limited number of students per route and one student per seat, providing for social distancing.
2. STA will disinfect seats and safety equipment between routes.
3. STA agrees that buses will return to bus yards after the routes for a more thorough disinfecting.
4. STA will ensure that bus drivers and monitors will wear masks at all times and gloves when loading and unloading students.
5. Students will be encouraged to wear face coverings (as able to) while on the bus.
6. TCOE AcCEL staff will ensure that students' temperatures are monitored upon arrival for school attendance, and will be escorted directly to the classroom.
7. TCOE AcCEL staff will have students wash their hands prior to loading on the bus for departure.
8. TCOE AcCEL staff will stagger arrival and departure times. Practical locations will be established to minimize scheduling challenges for families.

F. Classroom Schedules

1. For TCOE AcCEL Classrooms that operate in-person instruction, schedules may vary by site.
2. If parents choose, they may send a water bottle and individually wrapped snacks for their child to have while at school.
3. Should a staff member or student in a classroom test positive for COVID19, the entire class will need to quarantine at home for a period of 2 weeks before returning to in-person instruction at school.
4. TCOE Covid point person will notify the District point person of quarantine.
5. Quarantined classroom will be sanitized.

G. Parent Basic Health and Safety Measures









Students should not attend school, if they have any of these COVID-19 symptoms:

1. Fever (100.0 or higher) or chills, must be fever free for 24 hours without using fever reducing medication.
2. Headache, cough, congestion or runny nose.
3. Sore throat.
4. Shortness of breath or trouble breathing.
5. Loss of taste or smell.
6. Nausea, vomiting or diarrhea.

Parents must inform the AcCEL Program Manager if someone in their home:

- has traveled abroad in the last 14 days
- has had close contact with a confirmed case
- has been diagnosed with COVID-19
- ***Students must be kept at home in all these situations.***

Symptoms of COVID-19

Symptoms of COVID-19	Strep Throat	Common Cold	Flu	Asthma	Seasonal Allergies
FEVER 	✓		✓		
COUGH 		✓	✓	✓	✓
SORE THROAT 	✓	✓	✓		✓
SHORTNESS OF BREATH 				✓	
FATIGUE 		✓	✓	✓	✓
DIARRHEA OR VOMITING 	✓		✓		
RUNNY NOSE 		✓	✓		✓
BODY/ MUSCLE ACHES 	✓	✓	✓		

✓ Symptom of illness



cdc.gov/coronavirus

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Classroom Checklist

Monitoring Student Daily Temperature	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
Wear gloves. Check all student's temperatures with Thermal Thermometer upon arrival to school, at the bus unloading area. <i>If temperature 100.0 or higher; return student home on the bus; and notify parent of fever.</i>					

Daily Classroom Protocol

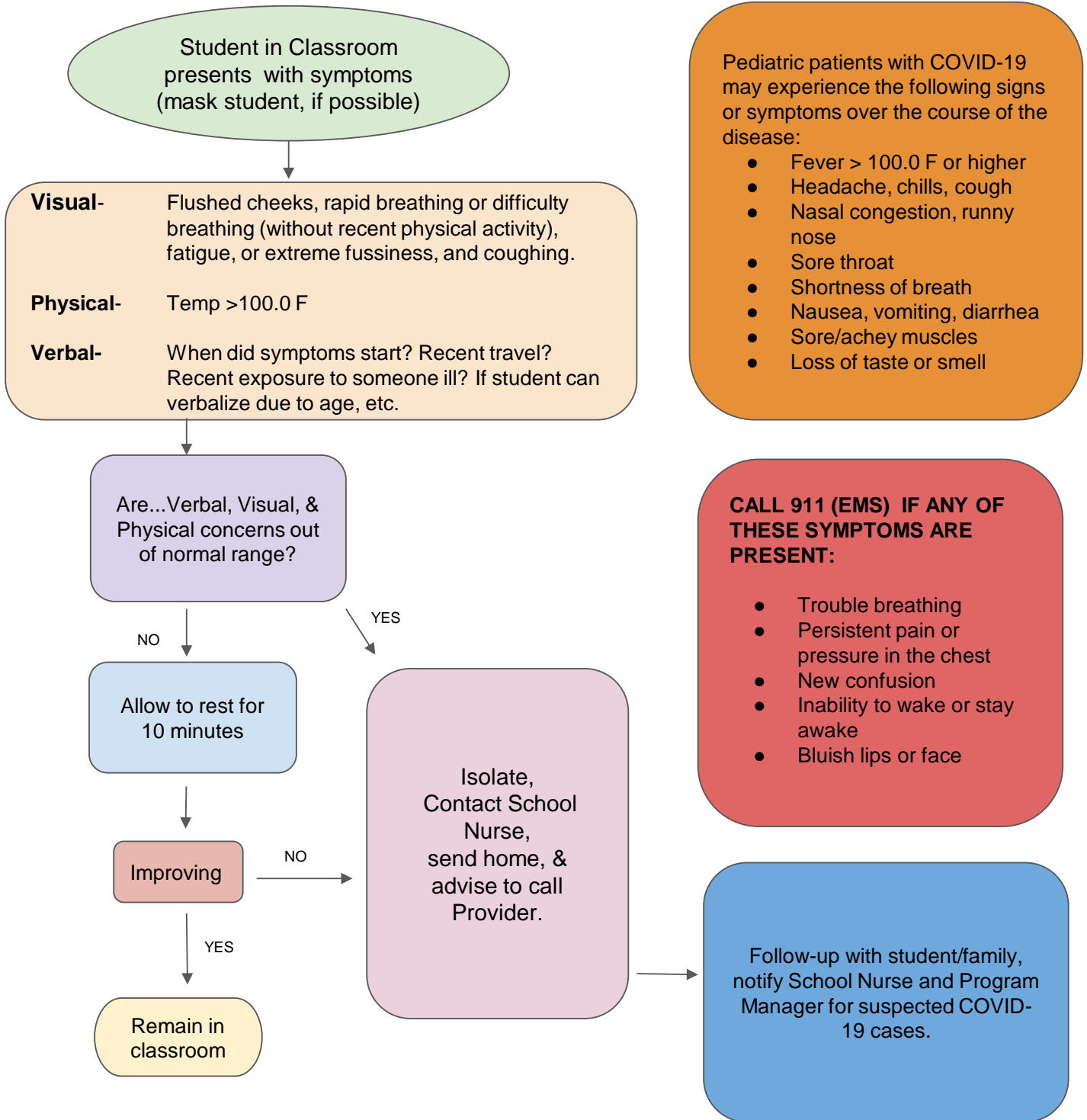
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Face mask should be worn by all staff members throughout the day.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Continue to reinforce the importance of social distancing. Use of physical guides, such as tape on floors, and signs on walls to promote social distancing.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Wash all student's hands with hand soap and water for 20 seconds, upon arrival, and continue to wash hands after each session. Hand sanitizer is available for this use as well.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Restrict all nonessential visitors, including parents from the classroom. Parents dropping their children off, must notify staff of student's arrival to have temperature checked prior to entering the campus.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Drinking fountains are NOT to be used at this time. Fountains should be covered and taped off. Use tap water and pour water into a plastic cup or bottled water for student.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Students are to be assigned their own personal pencil boxes/materials for daily use.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Routinely clean, sanitize, and disinfect throughout the day in the classroom. Clean all areas that student has transitioned from and high use areas (computer, table top, chair, etc.). <i>*Keep all labeled cleaning products out of the reach of children and in a secured place.</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ For Snack Time. Disinfect the table before and after meal use. With helping students during snack time, use hand sanitizer or wash hands in between students. Continue to offer pre-packaged boxed or bagged snacks.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Before diapering or assisting with toileting. Wash your hands and the child's hands before you begin, and wear gloves. Remove gloves and wash your hands and the child's hands when done. Wipe down restroom area with disinfectant when done.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ At the end of the day. Disinfect all high frequent used/touched surface areas (door knobs, faucets, key boards, counter tops, tables, chairs), disinfect toys/manipulatives used, clean bathrooms, vacuum and mop as needed.

Reference: Considerations for K-12 Schools: Readiness and Planning Tool, [cdc.gov/coronavirus 9-21-2020.](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/schools/)

COVID-19 Screening Flowchart

AcCEL Health Services - September 2020

This flowchart will be used by classroom staff to provide guidance for students who may present with COVID-19 like symptoms.



Appendix C

Reference:
 TCSD, Health Services, 6/2020; CSNO 2020.
 TCOE AcCEL Health Services 10/2020.

References:

California Department Public Health. *COVID-19 Industry Guidance: Schools and School-Based Programs*, updated: August 3, 2020.

Centers for Disease, Control and Prevention. *FAQ for School Administrators on Reopening Schools FAQs About Reopening*, updated July 24, 2020. Accessed 9/22/2020. Available on line:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019ncov/faq/community/schools/html>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *Operating schools during COVID-19: CDC's Considerations*, updated September 1, 2020. Accessed 9/22/2020. Available on line:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/schools.html>

Centers for Disease, Control and Prevention. *Screening K-12 Students for Symptoms of COVID-19 Limitations and Considerations Screening Students for Symptoms*, last revised July 23, 2020. Accessed 9/22/2020. Available on line:
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Hamilton, Sarah. Tulare County Office of Education, AcCEL Program. *Basic Health and Safety Measures, Parent Cohort Letter*. 9/23/2020.