

# **TULARE COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION INJURY AND ILLNESS PREVENTION PROGRAM COVID-19 PREVENTION PROGRAM (CPP)**

## **Purpose**

California employers are required to establish and implement an Injury and Illness Prevention Program (IIPP) to protect employees from all worksite and vehicle hazards, including infectious diseases.

Cal/OSHA's regulations require protection for workers exposed to airborne infectious diseases such as the 2019 novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19). This interim guidance provides employers and workers with information for preventing exposure to the coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2), the virus that causes COVID-19. Employers and employees should review their own health and safety procedures as well as the recommendations and standards detailed below to ensure workers are protected.

It is the policy of the Tulare County Office of Education to ensure a safe and healthy environment for employees, staff, and students. Communicable and infectious diseases such as COVID-19 are minimized by providing prevention, education, identification through examination, surveillance, immunization, treatment and follow-up, isolation, and reporting.

Due to the widespread of COVID-19 in the community, Tulare County Office of Education has implemented the following infection control measures, including applicable and relevant recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and our state and local guidelines.

## **Authority and Responsibility**

Jeff Ramsay, General Services Director, has overall authority and responsibility for implementing the provisions of this CPP in our workplace. In addition, all managers and supervisors are responsible for implementing and maintaining the CPP in their assigned work areas and for ensuring employees receive answers to questions about the program in a language they understand.

All employees are responsible for using safe work practices, following all directives, policies and procedures, and assisting in maintaining a safe work environment.

## **Introduction**

### **What is COVID-19?**

On February 11, 2020, the World Health Organization announced an official name for the disease that is causing the 2019 novel coronavirus outbreak first identified in Wuhan, China. The new name of this disease is Coronavirus Disease 2019, abbreviated as COVID-19. In COVID-19, 'CO' stands for 'corona,' 'VI' for 'virus,' and 'D' for disease. Formerly, this disease was referred to as "2019 novel coronavirus" or "2019-nCoV". There are many types of human coronaviruses including some that commonly cause mild upper-respiratory tract illnesses.

COVID-19 is a new disease caused by a new coronavirus that has not previously been seen in humans. There is currently no vaccine to prevent COVID-19.

## **What are the Symptoms of COVID-19?**

Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. People with these symptoms may have COVID-19:

- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fever
- Chills
- Muscle pain
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste or smell

## **Procedures to Help Prevent the Spread of COVID-19**

### **Identification and Evaluation of COVID-19 Hazards**

We will implement the following in our workplace:

- Conduct workplace-specific evaluations using the **Appendix A: Identification of COVID-19 Hazards form**.
- Evaluate employees' potential workplace exposures to all persons at, or who may enter, our workplace using visitor and employee return to work affirmation form.
- Review applicable orders and general and industry-specific guidance from the State of California, Cal/OSHA, and the local health department related to COVID-19 hazards and prevention. The General Services and Human Resources Department will review the orders and guidance as they are received. Orders and guidance will be presented during quarterly safety committee meeting.
- Evaluate existing COVID-19 prevention controls in our workplace and the need for different or additional controls based on changes in local, state and federal guidelines and concerns raised by visitors and staff.
- Conduct regular inspections using the **Appendix B: COVID-19 Inspections form** as needed to identify unhealthy conditions, work practices, and work procedures related to COVID-19 and to ensure compliance with our COVID-19 policies and procedures.
- Regularly communicate reminders for employees to adhere to COVID-19 safety protocols and practices.

**Unsafe or unhealthy work conditions, practices or procedures will be documented on the Appendix B: COVID-19 Inspections form, and corrected in a timely manner based on the severity of the hazards, as follows:**

Work Orders will be submitted by the employee observing the hazard or concern. All Work Orders submitted as safety issues are automatically marked as high priority. All COVID-19 issues or concerns will be checked as a safety issue.

## How Does It Spread?

The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus.

- The virus is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person.
- Between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet).
- Through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks.
- Through respiratory droplets that can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs.

Some recent studies have suggested that COVID-19 may be spread by people who are not showing symptoms.

Germs can spread from other people or surfaces when:

- Touching eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Prepare or eat food and drinks with unwashed hands.
- Touch a contaminated surface or objects.
- Blowing nose, coughing, or sneezing into hands and then touching other people's hands or common objects.

Older adults and people who have severe underlying medical conditions like heart or lung disease or diabetes seem to be at higher risk for developing serious complications from COVID-19 illness.

## Control of COVID-19 Hazards

### Hand Hygiene

To prevent the spread of respiratory infections from one person to the next, frequent hand washing is recommended.

Hand hygiene procedures include the use of alcohol-based hand rubs and hand washing with soap and water. Washing hands with soap and water is one of the most effective ways to prevent the spread of germs. If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer (containing at least 60% ethanol alcohol).

Properly hand wash with soap and water by:

- Wet hands first with water.
- Apply soap to hands.
- Rub hands vigorously for at least 20 seconds, covering all surfaces of hands and fingers.
- Rinse hands with water and dry thoroughly with paper towel.
- Use paper towel to turn off water faucet.

Alcohol-based hand sanitizer is an ideal method for decontaminating hands, except when hands are visibly soiled (e.g., dirt, blood, body fluids), and may not remove harmful chemicals from hands like pesticides and heavy metals, in which case soap and water should be used. Hand hygiene stations should be strategically placed to ensure easy access.

Using Alcohol-based Hand Sanitizer (follow manufacturer's directions):

- Dispense the recommended volume of product.
- Apply product to the palm of one hand, and
- Rub hands together, covering all surfaces of hands and fingers until they are dry (no rinsing is required). This should take around 20 seconds.

Hand washing facilities will be maintained to provide adequate supply of hand washing soap and paper towels.

## **Coughing and Sneezing Etiquette**

Covering coughs and sneezes and keeping hands clean can help prevent the spread of serious respiratory illnesses.

To help stop the spread of germs:

- Cover mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing.
- Throw used tissues in the trash.
- If a tissue is not available, cough or sneeze into the elbow – not in hands.
- Immediately wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, clean hands with a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% ethanol alcohol.

## **Avoid Close Contact – Distancing**

Physical distancing is an effective method that can help stop or slow the spread of an infectious disease by limiting the contact between people. For COVID-19, the recommended distance is at least 6 feet. To help prevent the spread of respiratory disease, employees should avoid close contact with people outside their household or those who are sick within their household.

Each site will have a plan in place to ensure social distancing at their location. The plan will include, but is not limited to the following:

- Implementing flexible work hours by rotating or staggering shifts to limit the number of employees on site at the same time.
- Increasing physical space between employees by modifying the workspace.
- Avoiding shared workspaces (desks, offices, and cubicles) and work items (phones, computers, other work tools, and equipment) when possible. If workspaces must be shared, follow the Cleaning and Disinfecting the Building and Facility Guidelines to clean and disinfect shared workspaces and work items before and after use.
- Increasing physical space between employees and public by offering drive-through service or physical barriers such as partitions.
- Using signs, tape marks, or other visual cues on the floor, placed 6 feet apart, to indicate where to stand when physical barriers are not possible.
- Close or limit access to common areas where employees are likely to congregate and interact.
- Delivering services and holding meetings remotely by phone, video, or Internet.
- Limiting any unnecessary travel with passenger(s) from one site to another in work vehicles and personal employee vehicles.

- Eliminating all non-essential and non-related services, such as entertainment activities.
- Using videoconferencing or teleconferencing when possible for work-related meetings and gatherings.
- Canceling, adjusting, or postponing large work-related meetings or gatherings that can only occur in-person in accordance with state and local regulations and guidance.
- When videoconferencing or teleconferencing is not possible, holding meetings in open, well-ventilated spaces continuing to maintain a distance of 6 feet apart and wear cloth face coverings.

Employees will also be asked to practice social distancing outdoors including, but not limited to the following:

- When working in sports fields, playgrounds, assembly areas, and/or other outdoor areas.
- Before starting the work shift.
- After the work shift.
- Coming and going from vehicles.
- Entering, working, and exiting physical buildings or other structures.
- During breaks and lunch periods.

## **Cloth Face Coverings**

Unless otherwise directed by your supervisor, all employees should cover their mouth and nose with a cloth face cover when around others and follow any state, county, or local mandates/guidelines.

- You could spread COVID-19 to others even if you do not feel sick.
- Everyone should wear a [cloth face cover](#).
  - Cloth face coverings should not be placed on anyone who has trouble breathing or is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.
- The cloth face cover is meant to protect other people in case you are infected.
- Do NOT use a face mask meant for a healthcare worker.

Continue to keep at least 6 feet between yourself and others. The cloth face cover is not considered personal protective equipment. It is not a substitute for social distancing but when used in conjunction, it may help prevent infected persons without symptoms from unknowingly spreading the disease.

## **If an Employee is Sick**

Employees will be asked to monitor their health each day and are asked to notify their supervisor before their scheduled shift and prior to arriving at the site, if they have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 or they have a temperature of 100.4 or more, fatigue, chills, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, sore throat, loss of taste or smell, cough, or muscle pain.

If an employee is not feeling well and is exhibiting symptoms that may be attributed to COVID-19, such as acute respiratory symptoms or a fever, Tulare County Office of Education will:

- Immediately send employees with acute respiratory illness symptoms home or to medical care as soon as possible.
- Actively encourage sick employees to stay home.

- If an employee goes home because they are sick, follow the cleaning and disinfecting the building and facility guidelines to disinfect the area/room/office where the person worked, the tools and equipment they used prior to use by others.
- Employees who are well but who have a sick family member at home with COVID-19 should notify their supervisor and follow CDC-recommended precautions.
- Ensure that employees can report symptoms and hazards without fear of reprisal.
- Ensure employees who are out sick with fever or acute respiratory symptoms do not return to work until both of the following occur:
  - At least 3 full days pass with no fever (without the use of fever-reducing medications) and improvement in respiratory symptoms.
  - At least 10 full days pass since symptoms first appeared.
- Ensure employees who return to work following an illness promptly report any recurrence of symptoms.

## Exclusion of COVID-19 Cases

Where we have a COVID-19 case in our workplace, we will limit transmission by:

- Ensuring that COVID-19 cases are excluded from the workplace until we receive a doctor's note releasing them to return to work.
- Excluding employees with COVID-19 exposure from the workplace for 14 days after the last known COVID-19 exposure to a COVID-19 case.
- Continuing and maintaining an employee's earnings, seniority, and all other employee rights and benefits whenever we've demonstrated that the COVID-19 exposure is work related. The procedures are described in the applicable agreements with our represented units.
  - CSEA #428
  - CSEA #899
  - CTA
- Providing employees at the time of exclusion with information on available benefits.

## Reporting, Recordkeeping, and Access

It is our policy to:

- Report information about COVID-19 cases at our workplace to the local health department whenever required by law, and provide any related information requested by the local health department.
- Report immediately to Cal/OSHA any COVID-19-related serious illnesses or death, as defined under CCR Title 8 section 330(h), of an employee occurring in our place of employment or in connection with any employment.
- Provide a resource for COVID-19 testing: <https://covid19.tularecounty.ca.gov/covid-19-testing-sites/>
- **In the event we are required to provide testing because of a workplace exposure or outbreak, we will communicate the plan for providing testing and inform affected employees of the reason for the testing and the possible consequences of a positive test.**
- Maintain records of the steps taken to implement our written COVID-19 Prevention Program in accordance with CCR Title 8 Section 3203(b).

- Make our written COVID-19 Prevention Program available at the workplace through Tulare County Office of Education’s website to employees, authorized employee representatives, and to representatives of Cal/OSHA immediately upon request.
- Use the **Appendix C: Investigating COVID-19 Cases** form to keep a record of and track all COVID-19 cases. The information will be made available to employees, authorized employee representatives, or as otherwise required by law, with personal identifying information removed.

## **Return-to-Work Criteria**

- COVID-19 cases with COVID-19 symptoms will not return to work until all the following have occurred:
  - At least 24 hours have passed since a fever of 100.4 or higher has resolved without the use of fever-reducing medications.
  - COVID-19 symptoms have improved.
  - At least 10 days have passed since COVID-19 symptoms first appeared.
- COVID-19 cases who tested positive but never developed COVID-19 symptoms will not return to work until a minimum of 10 days have passed since the date of specimen collection of their first positive COVID-19 test.
- A negative COVID-19 test will not be required for an employee to return to work.
- If an order to isolate or quarantine an employee is issued by a local or state health official, the employee will not return to work until the period of isolation or quarantine is completed or the order is lifted. If no period was specified, then the period will be 10 days from the time the order to isolate was effective, or 14 days from the time the order to quarantine was effective.

## **Personal Protective Equipment**

While engineering and administrative controls are considered more effective in minimizing exposure to COVID-19, PPE may also be needed to prevent certain exposures. While correctly using PPE can help prevent some exposures, it should not take the place of other prevention strategies. Examples of PPE include: gloves, goggles, face shields, face masks, and respiratory protection, when appropriate. During an outbreak of an infectious disease, such as COVID-19, recommendations for PPE specific to occupations or job tasks may change depending on geographic location, updated risk assessments for workers, and information on PPE effectiveness in preventing the spread of COVID-19.

The Tulare County Office of Education will conduct a hazard assessment to determine if hazards are present in the workplace that necessitate the use of PPE. If the Office identifies COVID-19 as a workplace hazard, it will select and provide exposed employees with properly fitting PPE that will effectively protect employees. The Office will stress hand hygiene before and after handling all PPE.

## **Washing Facilities**

Notify your supervisor if any washing facilities do not have an adequate supply of suitable cleansing agents, water, and single-use towels or blowers.

## **Cleaning and Disinfecting**

Tulare County Office of Education will establish routine schedules to clean and disinfect common surfaces and objects in the workplace. This includes, but is not limited to, classroom technology devices, containers, counters,

tables, desks, chairs, benches, door handles, knobs, drinking fountains, refrigerators, vending machines, portable restroom and bathroom surfaces, automobiles and buses – inside and out, and trash cans.

The process of disinfecting includes providing disinfecting products that are EPA approved for use against the virus that causes COVID-19 and following the manufacturer's instructions for all cleaning and disinfection products (e.g., safety requirements, PPE, concentration, contact time).

Coronaviruses on surfaces and objects naturally die within hours to days. Warmer temperatures and exposure to sunlight will reduce the time the virus survives on surfaces and objects. Normal routine cleaning with soap and water removes germs and dirt from surfaces. It lowers the risk of spreading COVID-19 infection.

Disinfectants kill germs on surfaces after cleaning that can further lower the risk of spreading infection. Employees will need to follow the Office's approved disinfecting products and procedures when using disinfectants. Disinfecting procedures include:

- Some surfaces only need to be cleaned with soap and water. For example, surfaces and objects that are not frequently touched should be cleaned and do not require additional disinfection.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily and shared workspaces and work items before and after use.
- Store and use disinfectants in a responsible and appropriate manner according to the label.
- Keep all disinfectants out of the reach of children. Disinfectants should typically not be applied on items used by children, especially any items that children might put in their mouths. Many disinfectants are toxic when swallowed.
- Do not overuse or stockpile disinfectants or other supplies.
- Always wear gloves appropriate for the chemicals being used when you are cleaning and disinfecting. Additional personal protective equipment (PPE) may be needed based on setting and product.
- Areas unoccupied for 7 or more days need only routine cleaning.
- Outdoor areas generally require normal routine cleaning and do not require disinfection.

## **Electronics**

For electronics, such as tablets, touch screens, keyboards, remote controls, and ATM machines:

- Consider putting a wipeable cover on electronics.
- Follow manufacturer's instructions for cleaning and disinfecting.
- If no guidance, use alcohol-based wipes or sprays containing at least 70% alcohol. Dry surface thoroughly.

## **Cleaning and Disinfecting Building or Facility if Someone is Sick:**

- Close off areas used by the sick person.
- Open outside doors and windows to increase air circulation in the area.
  - Wait 24 hours before you clean or disinfect.
  - If 24 hours is not feasible, wait as long as possible.
- Clean and disinfect all areas used by the sick person, such as offices, bathrooms, common areas, shared electronic equipment like tablets, touch screens, keyboards, and remote controls.



- Always wash immediately after removing gloves and after contact with a sick person.
- If more than 7 days since the sick person visited or used the facility, additional cleaning and disinfection is not necessary.
- Continue routine cleaning and disinfection

## **Employee Training**

Tulare County Office of Education will provide regular training for employees on the following topics: We will provide effective training and instruction that includes:

- Our COVID-19 policies and procedures to protect employees from COVID-19 hazards.
  - What is COVID-19 and how is it spread.
  - Signs and symptoms of COVID-19.
  - When to seek medical attention if not feeling well.
  - Prevention of the spread of COVID-19 if you are sick.
  - Coughing and sneezing etiquette.
  - Safely using cleansers and disinfectants.
- Information regarding COVID-19-related benefits to which the employee may be entitled under applicable federal, state, or local laws.
- The fact that:
  - COVID-19 is an infectious disease that can be spread through the air.
  - COVID-19 may be transmitted when a person touches a contaminated object and then touches their eyes, nose, or mouth.
  - An infectious person may have no symptoms.
- Methods of physical distancing of at least six feet and the importance of combining physical distancing with the wearing of face coverings.
- The fact that particles containing the virus can travel more than six feet, especially indoors, so physical distancing must be combined with other controls, including face coverings and hand hygiene, to be effective.
- The importance of frequent hand washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and using hand sanitizer when employees do not have immediate access to a sink or hand washing facility, and that hand sanitizer does not work if the hands are soiled.
- Proper use of face coverings and the fact that face coverings are not respiratory protective equipment - Face coverings are intended to primarily protect other individuals from the wearer of the face covering.
- COVID-19 symptoms and the importance of obtaining a COVID-19 test and not coming to work if the employee has COVID-19 symptoms.

## **Compliance**

This addendum will be reviewed regularly and according to federal, state, and local requirements in addition to the Superintendent Policies and Administrative Regulations. These guidelines and written addendum are subject to change as information is received and the situation evolves.

**Appendix A: Identification of COVID-19 Hazards**

All persons, regardless of symptoms or negative COVID-19 test results, will be considered potentially infectious. Particular attention will be paid to areas where people may congregate or come in contact with one another, regardless of whether employees are performing an assigned work task or not. For example: meetings, entrances, bathrooms, hallways, aisles, walkways, elevators, break or eating areas, cool-down areas, and waiting areas.

Evaluation of potential workplace exposure will be to all persons at the workplace or who may enter the workplace, including coworkers, employees of other entities, members of the public, customers or clients, and independent contractors. We will consider how employees and other persons enter, leave, and travel through the workplace, in addition to addressing fixed work locations.

Person conducting the evaluation:

Date:

Name(s) of employee and authorized employee representative that participated:

Interaction, area, activity, work task, process, equipment and material that potentially exposes employees to COVID-19 hazards	Places and times	Potential for COVID-19 exposures and employees affected, including members of the public and employees of other employers	Existing and/or additional COVID-19 prevention controls, including barriers, partitions and ventilation

## Appendix B: COVID-19 Inspections

Date:

Name of person conducting the inspection:

Work location evaluated:

Exposure Controls	Status	Person Assigned to Correct	Date Corrected
<b>Engineering</b>			
Barriers/partitions			
Ventilation (amount of fresh air and filtration maximized)			
Additional room air filtration, if applicable			
<b>Administrative</b>			
Physical distancing			
Surface cleaning and disinfection (frequently enough and adequate supplies)			
Hand washing facilities (adequate numbers and supplies)			
Disinfecting and hand sanitizing solutions being used according to manufacturer instructions			
<b>PPE (not shared, available and being worn)</b>			
Face coverings (cleaned sufficiently often)			
Gloves			
Face coverings, shields or goggles, if applicable			
Respiratory protection (health staff only)			

## Appendix C: Investigating COVID-19 Cases

All personal identifying information of COVID-19 cases or symptoms will be kept confidential. All COVID-19 testing or related medical services provided by us will be provided in a manner that ensures the confidentiality of employees, with the exception of unredacted information on COVID-19 cases that will be provided immediately upon request to the local health department, CDPH, Cal/OSHA, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), or as otherwise required by law.

All employees' medical records will also be kept confidential and not disclosed or reported without the employee's express written consent to any person within or outside the workplace, with the following exceptions: (1) Unredacted medical records provided to the local health department, CDPH, Cal/OSHA, NIOSH, or as otherwise required by law immediately upon request; and (2) Records that do not contain individually identifiable medical information or from which individually identifiable medical information has been removed.

Date:

Name of person conducting the investigation:

<b>Employee (or non-employee*) name:</b>		<b>Occupation (if non-employee, why they were in the workplace):</b>	
<b>Location where employee worked (or non-employee was present in the workplace):</b>		<b>Date investigation was initiated:</b>	
<b>Was COVID-19 test offered?</b>		<b>Name(s) of staff involved in the investigation:</b>	
<b>Date and time the COVID-19 case was last present in the workplace:</b>		<b>Date of the positive or negative test and/or diagnosis:</b>	
<b>Results of the evaluation of the COVID-19 case and all locations at the workplace that may have been visited by the COVID-19 case during the high-risk exposure period, and who may have been exposed (attach additional information):</b>			

<b>Notice given (within one business day, in a way that does not reveal any personal identifying information of the COVID-19 case) of the potential COVID-19 exposure to:</b>			
<b>All employees who may have had COVID-19 exposure and their authorized representatives.</b>	<b>Date:</b>		
	<b>Names of employees that were notified:</b>		
<b>Independent contractors and other employers present at the workplace during the high-risk exposure period.</b>	<b>Date:</b>		
	<b>Names of individuals that were notified:</b>		
<b>What were the workplace conditions that could have contributed to the risk of COVID-19 exposure?</b>		<b>What could be done to reduce exposure to COVID-19?</b>	
<b>Was local health department notified?</b>		<b>Date:</b>	

\*Should an employer be made aware of a non-employee infection source COVID-19 status.