

Reopening Protocols for K-12 Schools: Appendix T1

Effective Date: 12:01am on Monday, April 5, 2021

Recent Updates--(Changes highlighted in yellow)

4/2/2021:

- Amends cohort size and distancing requirements for on-site programming other than full-grade in person instruction (day care for school-aged children, specialized services for defined subgroups of children, and administration of college admission tests or AP testing).
- Allows students with IEP or 504 plans requiring specialized services to be pulled from their general education group and placed with students not in their primary stable group while receiving special education services, once school has reopened for full-grade in person instruction.

The County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health is adopting a staged approach, supported by science and public health expertise, to enable schools serving students from transitional kindergarten through grade 12 to reopen safely. In addition to the conditions imposed on schools by the State Public Health Officer and the California Department of Education, schools must also be in compliance with these employee and student safety and infection control protocols.

Please note: This document may be updated as new information and resources become available. Go to <http://www.ph.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/> for updates to this document.

This document starts with a discussion of current provisions for on-campus education in Los Angeles County, followed by information about safety strategies specific to the school environment.

The TK-12 reopening checklist starts on page 4, and provides safety measures in five areas:

- (1) Workplace policies and practices to protect employee and student health
- (2) Measures to ensure physical distancing
- (3) Measures to ensure infection control
- (4) Communication with employees, students and families of students and the public
- (5) Measures to ensure equitable access to critical services.

These five key areas must be addressed as your facility develops any reopening protocols. Schools must implement all applicable measures listed below and be prepared to explain why any measure that is not implemented is not applicable to the setting.

General Reopening Guidance for All Schools

At this time while Los Angeles County is in Red, Orange, or Yellow Tier, all schools are permitted to reopen for all students in any grades TK – 12. Note that the state defines an open or reopened school as one that offers in person instruction at least one day each week to all students in at least one of the grades served by the school. Schools that do not meet that criteria may be providing certain in person services to a limited number of students, but do not meet the criteria of being open or having reopened for the purposes of this protocol.

Schools open for in person learning must also continue to offer 100% distance learning as an option for those families that prefer it.

Schools that are eligible for reopening based on state and county criteria, are not required to open and may not open until the school is prepared to comply with all requirements in this protocol to ensure a safe environment for all members of the school community. However, schools should be aware that a prolonged delay in reopening may impact eligibility if community transmission rises and adjusted case rates exceed the thresholds that permit school reopening. **Any school that has reopened per the definition above may stay open** even if adjusted case rates rise and/or the County is reassigned back to a lower more restrictive tier. If a school has not reopened per the definition above, and the adjusted case rate in the County rises above 25 cases per 100,000 population, no schools that have not yet reopened will be permitted to do so for any grade served until the adjusted case rate again falls below 25. The only exception to this rule is that schools have a minimum three-week window for reopening after the County reaches the reopening threshold of less than 25 cases per 100,000 population. If the adjusted case rate were to quickly rise again above the permissible threshold within three weeks of reaching the threshold, schools still have a full three weeks to reopen before eligibility is withdrawn.

Schools that are preparing for reopening or electing to remain closed at this time, may still initiate or continue the following in person on campus activities. These activities may occur regardless of whether the school has reopened or remains closed, and regardless of the County's Tier placement or adjusted case rate:

- **Day care for school-aged children and/or childcare programs located in schools.**
 - LEAs and schools that offer day care services for children at schools must be in compliance with the DPH protocol for [Programs Providing Day Care for School-Aged Children](#) or the [Guidance for ECE Providers](#). Programs that wish to provide day care for school aged children at schools should communicate with their Community Care Licensing [Regional Office](#) to inquire regarding the availability of [emergency childcare](#) waivers for licensed childcare facilities and license-exempt providers due to COVID-19. For additional information see [PIN 20-22-CCP](#).
 - Schools that provide childcare programs for school-aged children on their campus must file the notification for [Child Care Services for School-aged Children on K-12 School sites](#) with LAC DPH.
- **Specialized services for defined subgroups of children who need in person services and supports.**
 - LEAs and schools are not required to provide specialized, in-person services, but those that do so may serve students with IEPs, students who are English Language learners, and students with needs that cannot be met through a virtual instruction platform. These students may be served as needed, provided that the overall number of students present on-site does not exceed 25% of total student body at any one time. Schools that have reopened for one or more of the grades served, but not for all grades served by the school, may also deliver these special services to a limited number of students in the grades not yet opened for full in person instruction. In that situation, the school may bring up to 25% of student enrollment in the grades not currently open on to campus at any one time for specialized support and services for high need students in those grades, as long as the school can adhere to distancing, infection control, and cohorting requirements.
 - Specialized services may include but are not limited to occupational therapy services, speech and language services, other medical services, behavioral services, educational support services as part of a targeted intervention strategy, or assessments, such as those related to English Learner status, Individualized Education Plans, and other required assessments.