

California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Updated Guidance Information

January 26, 2021 Update to the Board of Education



CDPH Updated Guidance Information

- On the afternoon of January 14, 2021:
 - The Governor's Administration released 50 pages of new COVID-19 reopening guidance, which can be found [here](#).
 - The State of California Safe Schools for All Hub, which has more information and will be regularly updated, can be accessed [here](#).
- This update provides both K-12 schools and Local Health Districts additional guidance for providing in-person instruction, including:
 - Criteria and processes for school reopening under the Blueprint for a Safer Economy framework.
 - Considerations intended to help school community leaders plan for and prepare to resume in-person instruction, including steps to take when a student or staff member is found to have COVID-19 symptoms during the school day and while participating in before and after school programs.
 - Response to confirmed COVID-19 infections when:
 - A case of COVID-19 is confirmed in a student or staff member; and
 - A cluster or outbreak of COVID-19 at a school is being investigated.
 - Physical distancing in classrooms.
 - Implementation of stable groups of students and staff.
- This update provides new guidance for schools to be open for in-person instruction

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- This updated guidance supersedes the following previous guidance:
 - *COVID-19 Industry Guidance: Schools and School-Based Programs* (first published in May 2020; last updated August 3, 2020).
 - *The COVID-19 and Reopening In-Person Learning Framework for K-12 Schools in California, 2020-2021 School Year* (July 17, 2020).
 - The Elementary Education Waiver process and the associated School Waiver Letter and Cover Form and Local Health Officer Waiver Notice Form (all issued on August 3, 2020).
 - CDPH Schools Frequently Asked Questions (first issued August 3, 2020; last updated October 20, 2020).
 - Ventura County Public Department Guiding Principles
 - Ventura County Public Health FAQs
 - Ventura County Public Health guidance to school district

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- The guidance does not supersede the Guidance Related to Cohorts for Children and Youth.

**COVID-19 and
Reopening In-Person
Instruction Framework
& Public Health
Guidance for K-12
Schools in California,
2020-2021 School Year**

January 14, 2021



Timeline of Events - CVUSD

Date	Action	Information/Communication
1/13/21 (evening/night meeting)	Special BOE Meeting: Approval of modifications to the current blended instruction schedules for TK-12	BOE approved and voted for a "soft" opening for high schools that would include 2 days per week on campus for the first two weeks only.
1/14/21 (morning email from VCOE)	VCPH FAQ:21. If a school has been providing some classes (included in the master schedule) on a campus when the county was in the red tier, are they considered "open" now that the county is in the purple tier?	Yes, as long as these classes were being operated differently than the small cohort model and discussed as a phased in approach to opening via stakeholder groups. Obviously, these updated FAQs did not reflect the new CDPH guidance.
1/14/2021 (afternoon email)	Notification went out to high school families regarding their return to in-person instruction beginning on January 19, 2021	
1/14/2021 (afternoon email)	New guidance from CDPH released and email received through a listserv and followed by an email from VCOE	CDPH Guidance January 14, 2021
1/14/2021 (afternoon meeting)	Spent the afternoon in negotiations with UACT	
1/14/2021 (evening email)	I forwarded updated guidance to our Board and held a phone conference with Board President Fitzgerald related to identified concerns on page 6, as well reached out to Cabinet members for their interpretation of the language on page 6.	
1/14/2021 (night phone conference)	I reached out to VCOE about the identified concern and was told by Dr. Morales that he and others at VCOE were unaware of the updated guidance and shared they were informed during the morning with State officials that it was coming out at some point that day.	

Date	Action	Information/Communication
1/15/2021 (morning meeting)	Emergency Cabinet Meeting held to discuss the updated guidance	At which time we agreed that language supported not opening high schools based on not offering all students at one grade level the opportunity to be on campus during the pilot courses.
1/15/2021 (afternoon)	Emailed Dr. Levin about the updated guidance - Email Subject: CDPH Updated Framework is Impeding Our High Schools Opening on Tuesday	
1/15/2021 (late afternoon meeting)	County Superintendent's Meeting to discuss updated guidance	It was shared that VCOE was unaware this guidance was coming: "Hit everyone by Surprise"
1/15/2021 (later afternoon/early evening)	Communication to Staff and CVUSD families regarding the new guidance from CDPH	Email notice
1/15/2021 (night email)	Email back from Dr. Levin to my earlier afternoon email.	He stated, "We were as surprised by the development as you were."
1/16/2021 (morning email)	I emailed Dr. Levin again to see if he had a contact at CDPH.	He responded with an individual to contact and I reached out to her about setting up a meeting to discuss CVUSD's high school situation.
1/16/2021 (morning email)	Sent an inquiry to CDPH - COVID-19 Inquiry sharing concerns about communication and the updated guidance not allowing us to open up our high schools	Received a form response back with no action or outcome determined
1/18/2021 (morning email)	Sent an email to the individual suggested by Dr. Levin and I received a response back that she agreed to meet through Zoom.	
1/19/2021 (morning email)	Sent a follow-up email to an individual at CDPH - with suggested times to meet - from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. or their best identified time	
1/19/2021 (afternoon email)	Received email from Ventura County Office of Education	CDPH released updated guidance for school reopening on January 14th. I've attached that guidance document for you. This document is replacing our Ventura County Public Health Guiding Principles, as well as our FAQ document.
1/19/2021 (night email)	Meeting was scheduled with Cabinet and CDPH	Meeting confirmed by CDPH - Cabinet and 4 individuals from CDPH scheduled to meet

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- Meeting with CDPH and CVUSD Cabinet Members on 1/20/21 from 11:00 a.m. to 11:40 a.m.
- Dr. McLaughlin provided background:
 - Elementary sites have been open for blended/remote for 8 weeks
 - Middle school sites have been open going on 6 weeks now
 - 24 of 27 schools are now open, except for our 3 comprehensive high schools. All guidance received up to this point agreed with being able to invite students back on campus in our blended model. We did have active pilots and small cohorts on campus.
 - Serving just under 8,000 students with in-person cohorts AM/PM cohorts
 - High schools should have opened yesterday (1/19) – have it in writing with VCPH and VCOE that high schools can open under previous guidance and based on the District’s plan.
 - Mentioned Board meeting last Wed. with conversation about opening up and the concern with the surge in numbers. Board weighed pros and cons and voted unanimously for a slow roll-in approach. Students on campus 2 days/week for the first week; 2 days/week for the second week.
 - Offered pilot classes (not every student in a particular grade level) and athletics are up and running.
 - Until updated guidance was received, the district communicated to our parents that high schools were opening for all students in Grades 9-12. I reviewed updated guidance on Thursday night and sent a message to the community based on updated guidance on Friday evening. District followed the correct protocol to get approval from VCPH and VCOE.
 - Data provided for our zip codes: 3 out of our 4 zip codes were in the red zone. This week, 4 out of our 4 zip codes were in the red zone. Zip codes represent the unadjusted rate. Questioned guidance that states that all zip codes in the county must be in the red to reopen – hinders ability for those in a safer zone to open.
 - Reference VCPH FAQs Question 21 – Based on the latest guidance from 1/14/21 – question regarding whether a school is considered “open” if they have been providing some classes within the master schedule when the county was in the red tier. The answer was yes, that CVUSD fit the criteria.

CDPH Response to CVUSD

- Apologized for the timing of the updated guidance and stated they needed to provide a definition of reopening or opening because the guidance was lacking in their previous documents.
- They will not consider individual school district zip code colors as a basis for reopening – they will only consider county at large.



Thank you
and
Questions