

Mt. Carmel High School



Reopening Plan For

Safety

Learning, Health, and

Introduction

On Friday, July 17, Governor Newsom announced [clear mandates](#) for how and when California schools can physically reopen. Schools can reopen if the county they are located in is removed from the state's [COVID-19 monitoring list](#) for 14 consecutive days. At this time, San Diego County has been placed on the state monitoring list due to rising cases since early July. As such, the San Diego County Department of Public Health's [latest public health order](#) does not allow for the physical reopening of schools.

Poway Unified School District (PUSD) continues to monitor local public health conditions to ensure our reopening plans are in alignment with county, state, and federal guidelines and recommendations. This plan ensures PUSD is on track to reopen our schools for in-person learning as soon as possible pending health orders.

The following plan:

- Complies with the measures described in the [COVID-19 Industry Guidance: Schools and School-Based Programs issued by the California Department of Public Health](#) (CDPH)
- Incorporates where feasible the guidelines provided in [Stronger Together: A Guidebook for the Safe Reopening of California's Public Schools](#) issued by the California Department of Education (CDE)
- Will be completed and posted, detailing the actions the school is taking to comply with the CDPH Industry Guidance measures after considering the CDE Guidelines

To meet the reopening conditions, Mt. Carmel staff have worked with district leadership to create this reopening plan. There are some unique, new conditions that must be in place to allow students to attend school. One of these conditions is to provide opportunities for physical distancing in all classrooms, when practicable. Our schedule, which is outlined below, enables us to limit the number of students in each classroom. Mt. Carmel will begin in a traditional learning model in which students will attend school onsite 5 days per week for the entire day. Please thoroughly read this document to be sure you understand the expectations for this coming school year.

Reference Documents

- [COVID-19 Industry Guidance: Schools and School-Based Programs](#) (From the California Department of Public Health)
- [Order of the Health Officer and Emergency Regulations](#) (From the County of San Diego Public Health Services- updated, July 7, 2020)

Mt. Carmel School Learning Plan

Mt. Carmel will be providing two learning models. One being on campus learning with health and safety protocols in place based on state and county guidelines. The other being a virtual learning model.

On Campus Learning (In-Person)

Daily "in-person classroom learning" will take place on campus for students. Daily, rigorous and engaging instruction will be provided by a classroom teacher to meet the academic, social and emotional needs of our world class learners. Mt. Carmel is maintaining current class size maximum for both the in person learning and virtual learning classroom. Classrooms will utilize space by spreading desks and tables around the room, as well as using vacant classrooms and outdoor space, as available. In person class sizes may be a bit smaller if several students have chosen virtual learning and/or home school.

We will follow CA Department of Public Health guidance and provide "in-person" learning virtually should our school be closed. Students will remain with their teacher and learn virtually following a full day learning schedule. Our school will also have a contingency plan in place should we need to provide learning with smaller groups of students on campus. The plan may include staggered start times and morning and afternoon sessions.

Depending on the number of families selecting the in person on campus option, in order to ensure physical distancing when students come onto campus, school sites may need to implement contingency plans as described below to ensure physical distancing inside classrooms as much as possible.

Contingency Plan:

The In-Person Contingency Learning Plan for on campus students at Poway High School may include two components: an in-person component and an independent learning component. The in-person component will be split into a Session 1/Session 2 format and students will be broken up into A and B groups. We will organize names and groups accordingly to accommodate siblings, and special circumstances. Students will have the option to be on campus supervised during the time they are not scheduled to be in class. Curriculum and instruction will include rigorous, integrated standards-based content and will be assigned letter grades. All independent and virtual learning assignments will be provided by the classroom teachers.

Virtual Learning Academy (VLA)

Our goal is to foster continuity of our school community. This means to the greatest extent possible, students will receive virtual instruction from a Westview teacher. The determining factors will be the number of students and staff requesting the VLA option for our school. If placement at the home school is not feasible, the student will receive VLA instruction from another highly qualified Poway Unified teacher. Each student accessing the Virtual Learning Academy will receive at-home instructional materials on specified dates. VLA students will be able to pick up Grab and Go meals. More information on the specific times and locations will be shared with families once these plans are solidified.

The Virtual Learning component will include:

- Virtual instruction (via Zoom or another format) targeted to maintain progress on goals for all students.
- Integrated standards-based instruction will be provided by the virtual classroom teacher via rigorous live and recorded lessons, offline learning, and virtual collaboration with their online community.
- There will be regular office hours, homeroom, and opportunities for students to ask questions and work in collaboration with each other. Virtual Learning will include PE for all students
- For students on an IEP, related services will be provided as documented on each student's IEP (may also occur in a virtual format as needed).

More information is available about our learning models in the [PUSD Reopening Guidebook](#).

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Social and Emotional Learning (SEL)-Customize with an SEL site specifics

SEL has been identified as a key area of consideration in school districts' reopening plans. The COVID-19 pandemic has amplified the need to address student (and staff) wellness, and has created a new set of circumstances that necessitates that we prioritize the importance of meeting the social-emotional needs of our students, staff, and families. Staff will check in daily with students and we will continue utilizing the Mindful Minute and hold morning meetings. Students will continue to be supported by our counselor and student services assistant.

Health & Safety Measures

The safety of students and staff continues to be our top priority for the 2020-21 school year. When it comes to educating our school community about safe habits during this pandemic we are focused on what are referred to as the Big 4: Temperature and Symptom Screening, Physical Distancing, Face Coverings and Increased Sanitation. Signage promoting the Big 4 will be posted throughout campus.

Temperature and Symptom Screening

- **Passive Screening:**
 - Parents/guardians should screen students before leaving for school by checking their student's temperature to determine that it is below 100 degrees Fahrenheit (without fever reducing medications) and observe for [symptoms](#). Parents are to keep their students home if they have symptoms consistent with COVID-19 or if they have had close contact (proximity of less than 6 feet for more than 15 minutes) with a person diagnosed with COVID-19.
 - Staff should self-screen before leaving for work by checking their temperature to determine that it is below 100 degrees Fahrenheit and to observe for [symptoms](#). Staff are to stay home if they have symptoms consistent with COVID-19 or if they have had close contact (proximity of less than 6 feet for more than 15 minutes) with a person diagnosed with COVID-19.

- **Active screening:**
 - All staff, students and visitors to our campus will be screened.
 - Students and staff will be assessed via visual wellness checks and temperature checks with no-touch thermometers (to ensure the temperature is below 100 degrees Fahrenheit). Staff will be asked about COVID-19 symptoms within the last 24 hours and whether anyone in their home has had COVID-19 symptoms or a positive test. All students who are able to verbally communicate will be asked the same screening questions as the staff.
 - For students riding the bus, screenings will take place before boarding. All other students will be screened upon arrival to school.
 - Staff and students will be screened daily, prior to entering the campus.
 - Students and staff must wash or sanitize their hands as they enter school campuses.

Physical Distancing

- **Arrival and Departure:**
 - Drop off locations and campus entry/dismissal points are designed to maximize physical distancing.
 - Multiple routes for entry and exit are marked and designed to limit direct contact with others as much as practicable.
 - Non-essential visitors and volunteers to campus will not be allowed on campus to decrease the number of people on campus. We value our volunteers and visitors and look forward to the time when we can all be together on campus.
 - Where physical distancing cannot be maintained on the bus, face coverings are required.
 - Bus drivers will notify students and parents to maintain 6-foot distancing at bus stops and while loading and unloading.
 - Students will be seated from the rear of the bus forward to limit unnecessary contact.
- **In Classrooms:**
 - To the extent possible, we will maximize space between seating and desks.
 - Teacher and other staff desks will be positioned at least six feet away from student desks.
 - Where practicable, students will be further separated by privacy boards between desks, markings on classroom floors to promote distancing or arranging desks in a way that minimizes face-to-face contact.
 - Consideration will be given to redesigning activities for smaller groups and rearranging furniture to maintain separation.
 - Routines for submitting assignments will also minimize contact.
- **During Lunch on Campus:**
 - The number of students per table will be limited.
 - The distance between tables, when practicable, will allow for 6 feet of distance.
 - When appropriate, the number of areas in which students may eat will be increased.
- **Larger Common Spaces:**

- Students and staff should avoid congregating in larger common spaces, including break rooms, staff rooms, and bathrooms.

Face Coverings

- All Poway Unified staff must wear face coverings or face shields while students are on campus.
- Students are required to use cloth face coverings, especially in circumstances when physical distancing cannot be maintained. PUSD will provide face coverings to students who are able to wear one but don't have one. It is understood that some students may not be able to wear a face covering for medical reasons or due to their disability. PUSD will continue to monitor and follow the most current Health Order regarding face coverings in the school setting. Face coverings will be used:
 - While waiting to enter the school campus
 - While on school grounds
 - While leaving school
 - While on a school bus
- Parents/guardians should familiarize their students with the information available [here](#) about the proper use, removal, and washing of cloth face coverings, as possible.
- Staff will also train students on these protocols and educate them about their role in helping to prevent the spread of the virus.

Increased Sanitation

- **Hygiene:**
 - The top two recommendations from every health agency to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and to minimize personal risk of getting COVID-19 are frequent handwashing and minimizing touching your face.
 - Staff will train students in appropriate hand washing techniques. They will also explain the importance of avoiding contact with one's eyes, nose, and mouth and covering coughs and sneezes.
 - Students must wash or sanitize their hands as they enter campuses and buses.
 - Hand sanitizer will be available through both automatic and traditional dispensers in strategic locations across campus.
 - Staff will prompt students to wash or sanitize their hands multiple times per day.
- **Cleaning and Disinfection:**
 - Teachers are advised to avoid allowing students to share electronic equipment, books, or learning materials.
 - Students will be provided individual student sets of materials, i.e., pencils, markers, scissors, etc. or these items will be shared among a small cohort of students.
 - Materials that are difficult to clean and sanitize will be limited.
 - Desks, tables, chairs, keyboards, headsets, and other similar equipment will be disinfected after each use, as practicable.
 - Custodial staff will disinfect high touch points and hard surfaces daily. This includes door handles, desktops, sink handles, handrails and restrooms.

Campus Access

- Initially visitors to campus will be extremely limited. Allowing of volunteers on campus will be a phased in approach based on current safety regulations for physical distancing.
- At some point we would like to have volunteers back, but must monitor safety regulations.
- If the time comes, there will be training to ensure volunteers follow established protocols.
- All visitors to campus, including parents, will be screened. Those showing [symptoms of COVID-19](#) will not be allowed to access the campus.

Symptomatic Students & Staff on Campus

- Students who develop a fever over 100 degrees and/or symptoms of illness while at school will be separated from others immediately in an identified area (typically within or nearby the Health Office) to isolate potentially ill students from the general student population.
- Students exhibiting symptoms will be required to immediately wear a face covering (unless unable to do so due to disability) and wait in the isolated area until they can be transported home or to a healthcare facility.
- Students who are ill will remain in the Health Office until a parent comes to pick them up. Students who drive themselves will be released per school policy for illness and parents will be notified.
- Staff who develop symptoms while at work will be sent home. The principal or designee will be notified and emergency substitute plans will be enacted.
- Sick students and staff are advised to adhere to the following [CDC guidelines](#).
- They are not to return to school/work until they have met [CDC criteria to discontinue home isolation](#).
- If you think you may have COVID-19 or may have been exposed to COVID-19, please contact your healthcare provider, to determine treatment and testing steps.
- If you receive a positive test result, it is recommended you notify the school immediately.

Procedure for Handling a Positive COVID-19 Test on Campus

- If the school is notified of a student or staff member who tests positive for COVID, the administration will work with District staff to notify affected parties under the guidance of the County Department of Health and Human Services, as required.
- The areas they contacted will be disinfected as quickly as is practicable. This may include closing a classroom for a short-time, if necessary.
- The District will adhere to public health guidelines for [isolating positive cases or those who have been directly exposed to a positive case](#).
 - For exposures to a known positive person, this includes home isolation for at least fourteen (14) days.
 - For those who test positive for the virus, this includes home isolation for at least ten (10) days after respiratory systems have improved and three (3) days after a fever.
 - Students may be allowed to return if they have negative test results for the virus at least 24 hours apart.

- Students who are sent home for testing positive or being exposed to someone who tested positive will have access to instructional materials as if this were any other illness-related absence.

Staff Training

- Staff should complete the Keenan Training entitled: *Pest Management Training*, which includes guidance on the proper use and care of disinfectants and wipes.
- Staff should familiarize themselves with the information available [here](#) about the proper use, removal, and washing of cloth face coverings.
- Staff should further familiarize themselves with disinfecting frequency, tools, and chemicals by viewing the [CDPR](#) guidance.

Staff Protective Equipment

- As recommended by the CDC, all staff must wear face coverings. Per CDPH guidance, instructional staff may use face shields.
- Cloth face coverings have been provided to all employees and face shields will be provided to all instructional personnel.
- For staff engaging in symptom screening, PUSD will provide face covering, face shields, and disposable gloves.

Note: This reopening plan is intended to be a living document that is revisited and updated based on revisions to the County Public Health Order and Emergency Regulations. District administrators participate in weekly meetings reviewing the latest COVID-19 guidance from The California Department of Public Health (CDPH), California Department of Education (CDE), San Diego County Health and Human Services Agencies, Public Health Services (PHS) and San Diego County Office of Education (SDCOE). Updates and changes to policies are communicated system-wide. This document will be posted on our school website. The PUSD website contains additional information regarding the plans for reopening the district.