



RESOLUTION FOR A SAFE RETURN TO SCHOOLS CHULA VISTA EDUCATORS

Whereas, [OSH Act of 1970](#) (SEC. 5) states:

Each employer shall furnish to each of [their] employees employment and a place of employment which are free from recognized hazards that are causing or are likely to cause death or serious physical harm to [their] employees; shall comply with occupational safety and health standards promulgated under this Act; Each employee shall comply with occupational safety and health standards and all rules, regulations, and orders issued pursuant to this Act which are applicable to his own actions and conduct;

Whereas, the World Health Organization (WHO), Center for Disease Control (CDC), and other sources have published extensive guidelines for reopening schools safely (see footnotes);

Whereas, California Teachers' Association [Position on Reopening Schools and Community Colleges](#) states that to gradually reopen, schools need to:

1. Ensure the health and safety of students and staff.
2. Protect school funding and prevent state budget cuts.
3. Provide teaching and learning flexibility.
4. Include educators in the decision of how and when schools will reopen.

Therefore Be It Resolved That, Chula Vista Educators agree that the following criteria must be in place to safely reopen schools before an effective vaccine is widely available:

1. **Controlled Community Transmission:** School facilities must remain closed when rates of community transmission within the District are greater than the safety range established by county and/or state public health officials.
2. **Rigorous testing and tracing:** Widespread, accessible, and frequent screening, testing, tracing, and isolation of new cases.
3. **Thorough protection and prevention:** Rigorous cleaning and disinfection, proper ventilation, effective PPE provided for all students and staff, and remote work and learning for the most vulnerable students and staff.
4. **Consistent social distancing:** Student and staff schedules are designed to ensure small, stable groups with at least 6-feet between all people at all times.
5. **Comprehensive student supports:** All schools are staffed with at least one nurse or other health care provider per 600 students (1:225 for medically fragile students) and one counselor per 250 students, to train, teach, and implement public health protocols and trauma-informed practices.
6. **Proactive school closures:** The Chula Vista Elementary School District plans to close schools and implement equitable remote learning if there are increased cases in the local area, or a newly diagnosed case among staff, students, or their families.

Therefore Be It Further Resolved That, Chula Vista Educators rejects any plan that decreases funding for our students and staff and shall inform and educate members, parents and the community of our opposition to any budget cuts or layoffs of CVE members.

Therefore Be It Further Resolved That, Chula Vista Educators believe that a flexibility in required instructional minutes and days is needed to meet the unique circumstances of pivoting from distance learning and in-person learning.

Therefore Be It Further Resolved That, Chula Vista Educators calls for decreasing the amount of academic and standardized testing that usually occurs in a school year, including halting all end of the year district assessments.

Therefore Be It Further Resolved That, Chula Vista Educators shall request that teachers, nurses, parents & community members be involved in the plans to safely return to school.

Finally, Be It Further Resolved That, Chula Vista Educators supports following all statements from OSHA, CDC and WHO as well as recognizes that public health orders may change.

Passed and Adopted by the Chula Vista Educators Representative Council on Tuesday July 7th, 2020.

Sources:

- OSHA <https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/oshact/toc>
- California Teachers Association: Where We Stand on Reopening Schools and Community Colleges <https://www.cta.org/for-educators/covid19>
- National Education Association: All Hands on Deck https://educatingthroughcrisis.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/27178-Initial-Guidance-for-Reopening-Schools_Final-1.pdf
- American Federation of Teachers: Safely Reopening America's Schools and Communities <https://www.aft.org/reopen-schools>
- The incubation period for COVID-19, which is the time between exposure to the virus (becoming infected) and symptom onset, is on average 5-6 days, however can be up to 14 days. During this period, also known as the "pre-symptomatic" period, some infected persons can be contagious. Therefore, transmission from a pre-symptomatic case can occur before symptom onset. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/principles-contact-tracing.html>
- The incubation period has been found to be as long as 24 days (range: 0-24 days; median: 3.0 days). <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2762510>
- Surveillance strategies for COVID-19 human infection; contact tracing in the context of COVID-19; considerations for quarantine of individuals in the context of containment for coronavirus disease. <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/technical-guidance/surveillance-and-case-definitions>
- Plans should be updated throughout the response to ensure lessons learned are rapidly assimilated into practice and at a minimum address the following components: Ability to quickly set up safe and efficient screening and testing sites for symptomatic individuals, and to trace contacts of COVID+ cases; Ability to test symptomatic/influenza-like illness (ILI)-indicated persons for COVID-19 and trace contacts of COVID-19+ cases; Ability to test at sentinel surveillance sites for asymptomatic cases, and trace contacts of COVID-19+ cases <https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/6889330-Guidance-for-Opening-Up-America-Again-Frame-work.html>
- Checklist for school administrators, teachers, and staff: promote and demonstrate regular hand washing and positive hygiene behaviors and monitor their uptake; clean and disinfect school buildings, classrooms and especially water and sanitation facilities at least once a day, particularly surfaces that are touched by many people; increase airflow and ventilation where climate allows; post signs encouraging good hand and respiratory hygiene practices; ensure trash is removed daily and disposed of safely https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/key-messages-and-actions-for-covid-19-prevention-and-control-in-schools-march-2020.pdf?sfvrsn=baf81d52_4
- CDC Activities and Initiatives Supporting the COVID-19 Response and the President's Plan for Opening America Up Again (May 2020) https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/php/CDC-Activities-Initiatives-for-COVID-19-Response.pdf?fbclid=IwAR2ADwJTzkQY_B-a4UR8utBBbtDh-gIBNuu0tDwNPUWVn4c6ZniMCuA9C2I
- Stay at least 6 feet (about 2 arms' length) from other people. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/social-distancing.html>
- CDC Activities and Initiatives Supporting the COVID-19 Response and the President's Plan for Opening America Up Again (May 2020) https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/php/CDC-Activities-Initiatives-for-COVID-19-Response.pdf?fbclid=IwAR2ADwJTzkQY_B-a4UR8utBBbtDh-gIBNuu0tDwNPUWVn4c6ZniMCuA9C2I
- The previous ratio from the National Association of School Nurses is 1:750 for the general population and 1:225 for medically fragile students. <https://web.magnushealth.com/insights/school-nurse-to-student-ratios-in-independent-schools> How COVID-19 Spreads
- Ongoing monitoring in place: check for signs and symptoms of students and staff, encourage anyone who is sick to stay home, plan for if students or staff get sick, regularly communicate with local authorities, staff, and families, monitor student and staff absences and have flexible leave policies and practices, be ready to

close if there are increased cases.

<https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/6883736-CDC-documents.html#document/p1> Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) - Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers