

Safe Return to School FAQs - Updated 7/24/20

INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM

Do we have a choice for our child between on-campus, blended, or full distancing learning?

No, at this time, the Governor and local health department do not permit on-campus learning as we are on the State's "watch list". All students will be educated via distance learning.

What do we need to do to get off the "watch list"?

There are six criteria that will land a county on the watch list are:

- **# Tests** - Doing fewer than 150 tests per 100,000 residents daily (over a 7-day average)
- **# Positive Cases** - More than 100 new cases per 100,000 residents over the past 14 days...
- **# Positive Cases** - Or having more than 25 new cases per 100,000 residents and an 8% test positivity rate
- **#Hospitalizations** - 10% or greater increase in COVID-19 hospitalized patients over the past 3 days
- **# ICU beds** - Fewer than 20% of ICU beds available
- **# Ventilators** - Fewer than 25% ventilators available

San Diego County is currently on the watch list due to the number of positive cases over the past 14 days.

Can we apply for a waiver to open school?

Per the Governor's school closure order, a waiver may be granted by the local health officer for elementary schools to open for in-person instruction. However, our local health department is not accepting waiver requests at this time and no waivers are currently being granted.

San Diego County is so large. Why is our school being closed because of other areas with higher infection rates?

Presently, state health officials have created their "watch lists" at the county level. Based on [current data](#), infection totals since July 1st in the 92027 zip code, the area from which most of our students reside, rose 90.2%. During that same time, San Diego County's infection rate rose 68.4%.

	SD County Cases (Deaths)	SD County Positive Tests (14-day rolling avg.)	92025 Cases	92027 Cases
4/1/20	966 (16)	7.2%	11	7
5/1/20	3,842 (138)	6.3%	58	40
6/1/20	7,624 (276)	2.9%	108	76
7/1/20	15,207 (377)	4.9%	218	215
7/22/20	25,608 (512)	6.0%	346	409

How do our teachers feel about returning to school?

While our teachers are eager for kids to return to school, safety for both students and staff remains a top priority. The District is working closely with our teachers to craft plans to bring students and staff back to campus when it is both permissible and safe to do so.

Is a blended model being considered to better accommodate physical distancing?

Yes, once we are permitted to reopen campus, 3 blended learning models are currently under consideration:

Option 1: 2 full days/week; 3 days distance learning

Option 2: 4 ½ days/week (AM/PM); 4 ½ days and Fridays distance learning

Option 3: 4 full days/week, every other week; Fridays and alternate weeks in distance learning

Since we are required to start the year in distance learning, what will that look like for this year?

Per SB 98, the Governor set strict parameters for Distance Learning. They include:

- Student access to internet connectivity and devices to participate in the educational program.
- Quality, challenging content aligned to grade level standards equivalent to in-person instruction.
- Supports to address the needs of students.
- Special education, related services, and accommodations required by an individualized education program.
- Designated and integrated instruction in English language development.
- Daily live interaction with certificated employees and peers
- Instructional Minutes minimums (instruction or time value)
 - 180 minutes for kindergarten
 - 230 minutes for grades one through three
 - 240 minutes for grades four through eight
- Daily Attendance
- Grades

How are teachers being prepared for Distance Learning?

San Pasqual Union School prides itself on our teachers using 21st-Century tools and techniques to engage students. In the Spring of 2020, teachers and other school staff received additional resource, training, and professional development on distance learning tools and strategies. Additional training has continued over the summer months and will continue through the 2020-21 school year.

Will the distance learning program include daily live instruction with their teacher as well as designated time for individualized student support?

Yes, each school day will include daily student/teacher interactions and options for small group and individualized supports.

Per SB 98 requirements, does that mean my child will be on Zoom for 4 or more hours per day?

No, while the District is required to provide 4 hours of instruction or instructional activities per day, do not

expect your child to be “Zooming” for 4 hours per day. Teachers will deploy various strategies to promote student engagement, achievement, and connectedness.

How will distance learning affect IEPs and special education?

At present, while we are unable to service any student in a live setting, all students receiving services per an IEP will have it amended to provide services in a virtual setting.

I’m concerned my child has fallen behind. Anything I can do with them to get ready for the school year?

That is a valid concern for all students as we anticipate learning loss for all students removed from on-campus instruction. We anticipate receiving additional funding from state and federal sources to address this issue. Teachers will focus on assessing and supporting students to remediate prior year standards while teaching grade-level standards. For parents seeking to support kids prior to their return, consider enrolling them in [Camp Kahn](#).

Is there a school supply list for the 2020-21 school year?

Yes, teachers are currently modifying the school supply list for home learning. It should be posted to the school website on 8/3/20.

Can distance learning assignments be provided in a more unified approach for families with more than one student?

Yes, we are currently working with teachers to establish a more consistent and streamlined instructional portal to assist parents and students. We also anticipate similar work and break times to accommodate family schedules.

Will the Accelus program be used for distance learning?

Yes, but differently than last year. While specific distance learning plans are still being formulated, we expect that Acellus will be used more as supplementary materials to remediate, enrich, and accelerate students.

Will San Pasqual Union Preschool be open?

Probably. We are seeking confirmation from the local health department to confirm our program can open under the “child care” guidelines.

Will San Pasqual Union Kids’ Club be open?

Possibly. We are currently assessing health department guidance and current needs.

Does live teaching vs online teaching change the financial situation of the school?

Educating students during a pandemic creates financial hardships, especially as the District must plan for a multitude of possible scenarios. Due to the nature of the situation, conditions, regulations, and restrictions often change with little to no advance notice. The District is seeking additional funding to keep our kids safe AND learning.

When school opens up, will children still have a choice to continue distance or blended learning? If so, will a child be permitted to switch from distancing learning to on-campus learning at a later time?

Yes, distance learning will remain an option when school fully reopens. Children may be permitted to switch learning modalities at trimester breaks contingent upon staffing and distancing considerations.

Blended learning is currently being considered as a schoolwide measure if physical distancing is needed. At this time, there is no plan to offer a blended learning model once school is permitted to open fully.

SCREENING

Will health screenings be required? How can I ensure that other parents keep sick children home and don't mask a fever with medication?

Per current guidance, all staff and students will submit to temperature checks and health screening questions prior to boarding school transportation or entering campus. One of those questions pertains to the use of masking agents to lower a fever. For the safety of staff and students, parents are instructed not to mask illness with medication and should not send ill children to school.

FACIAL COVERINGS

Will facial coverings be required at school?

Yes, per the Governor's current order, facial coverings are strongly encouraged for children 2 years through 2nd grade and required for children 3rd grade and older. Children 3rd grade and older refusing to wear facial coverings will not be permitted on campus and will be placed into distance learning. All adults are required to wear facial coverings.

PHYSICAL DISTANCING

What will physical distancing look like?

Staggered start and end times are scheduled to promote distancing upon arrival and departure from campus. In the classroom, student and teacher seating will be arranged to create the maximum distance possible. In circumstances in which 6-foot distancing cannot be achieved, physical barriers will be utilized. On the playground, lunch area, and during physical education, students will remain in class cohorts. Distancing will be encouraged but cannot be guaranteed.

How many children are in each class?

While enrollment varies, typical class sizes are as follows:

TK-3rd Grade ~20-24 students

4th-8th Grade ~28-32 students

Blended learning models under consideration would reduce class sizes by approximately 50%.

What is the plan for students who take the bus to and from school?

The District is seeking to reduce the number of students utilizing school transportation. Those using the bus will be required to sign a waiver to do so. Prior to entering the bus, all students will be prescreened and required to wear a facial covering. Students will be distanced from one another to the maximum extent possible. Family cohorts will be seated together and windows will remain open. While desirable, it is unlikely that 6-foot distances will be maintained on busses.

CLEANING AND SANITATION

What will be done to maintain a clean and safe campus environment?

Staff and students will be trained and provided time throughout the day for hand washing and hand sanitizing. Staff will be provided with appropriate materials to clean and sanitize high touch and shared objects throughout the day. An additional custodian was hired and additional equipment purchased so that the campus can be sanitized and disinfected daily.

VISITORS AND VOLUNTEERS

When school opens up, will parents and volunteers be permitted on campus?

Most likely, parents and volunteers will be limited to pre-approved “essential volunteers” who will assist in carrying out health and safety protocols (screening, distancing, cleaning, etc.)

Illness

What will happen if a student or staff member develops a fever or symptoms while on campus?

Staff: If at any time during the school day a staff member develops a fever on campus, the staff member will be sent home.

Student: A child who is ill and exhibiting symptoms of Covid-19 will be given a mask to wear if they are not already wearing one and supervised in a separate area until parents arrive to pick them up.

Persons with a fever will not be permitted to return for 72 hours. Persons with COVID-19 or suspected COVID-19 will not be permitted to return for at least 14 days. Current health department recommendations will guide notifications, school closure (full or partial), and cleaning regimens.