



County of San Diego

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WILMA J. WOOTEN, M.D., M.P.H.
PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER

August 7, 2020

TO: San Diego County Superintendent of Schools
District Superintendents
Charter School Directors
Private School Head of Schools

FROM: Wilma J. Wooten, M.D., M.P.H.,
Public Health Officer & Director, Public Health Services

**RE: TRANSITIONAL KINDERGARTEN THROUGH 6TH GRADE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
WAIVER**

Live Well San Diego is a regional vision adopted by the San Diego County Board of Supervisors, in 2010, which aligns the efforts of County government, schools, community partners, and individuals to help all San Diego County residents be healthy, safe, and thriving. The *Live Well* School Initiative brings best practices and support to schools throughout San Diego County. In response to the coronavirus pandemic, the County of San Diego has developed an Education Sector Outreach and Response Team to provide resources, information, and tools to schools. The [Coronavirus-sd.com/K12 Schools](https://www.coronavirus-sd.com/K12_Schools) has also been created to provide educators, school partners, and families direct support.

On July 6, 2020, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) placed San Diego County on the State's County Monitoring List (List). On July 17, 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom announced that if a county has been on the List within the prior 14 days, a school must conduct distance learning only, until the county has been off the List for at least 14 days.

In counties on the List, CDPH guidance allows a district superintendent, private school principal/head of school, or executive director of a charter school (hereinafter superintendent) to apply for a waiver from the local health officer to open an elementary school for in-person instruction. This waiver is applicable only for grades TK-6, even if the grade configuration at the school includes additional grades. ***Please note that, per CDPH, counties will not be removed from the List until issues with the State's electronic data reporting system are resolved.***

When applying for the waiver, the superintendent must submit to the local health officer evidence of (1) consultation with labor, parent, and community organizations and (2) publication of the elementary school reopening plan(s) on the website of the local educational agency (or equivalent).

The local health officer then reviews the application and reopening plan(s) (along with local community epidemiological data), makes a determination whether to grant or deny the waiver, and consults with CDPH regarding that determination. Elementary schools in counties on the monitoring List within the prior 14 days may not open for in-person instruction until they have received approval of a submitted waiver from the local health officer.

In order to apply for a waiver, an application must contain the following:

- Attestation that the superintendent (equivalent or designated staff) has consulted with all labor, parent, and community organizations for each school site for which an application is being submitted. If no labor organization represents the staff for a school site, then consultation with that staff is sufficient.
- Confirmation that elementary school reopening plan(s) have been published on the website of the local educational agency (or equivalent). Reopening plan(s) must be submitted and address the components in the CDPH Guidance for Schools and School-Based Programs (which are also listed in the Waiver Application).

Applications and all supporting documents should be submitted to the local health officer at <https://tinyurl.com/COSD-School-Waiver> at least 14 days prior to the desired reopening date.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support to keep the residents of San Diego County healthy, safe, and thriving.

Sincerely,


WILMA J. WOOTEN, M.D., M.P.H.
Public Health Officer & Director,
Public Health Services

Cc: Helen Robbins-Meyer, County of San Diego, Chief Administrative Officer
Nick Macchione, County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Agency Director

Additional Resources:

1. [CDPH and Cal/OSHA Guidance for Schools and School-Based Programs](#)
2. [California Department of Education Stronger Together: A Guidebook for the Safe Reopening of California's Public Schools](#)
3. [CDPH COVID-19 and Reopening In-Person Learning Framework for K-12 Schools in California, 2020-2021 School Year](#)
4. [CDPH Schools Guidance FAQs](#)
5. [Temporary Lodging for Persons Requiring Isolation for COVID-19](#)