



# County of San Diego Elementary School Waiver

Application for a Waiver to Re-open In-Person Instruction for TK-6 Elementary Education.

Please submit one application for each local educational agency or equivalent. If applying on behalf of a school district, please submit one application for the elementary schools in the district that are seeking to reopen for in-person instruction. If applying for an independent, private, faith-based, or charter school, please submit an application for each school.

If all documentation is not included application can not be processed.

Once the waiver is approved, your information will be posted on the County of San Diego website, <http://Coronavirus-sd.com/K12Schools>

**School Name**

The Children's School

**Contact Name**

John Fowler

**Contact Email**

jfowler@tcslj.org

**Address**

2225 Torrey Pines Lane

**City**

La Jolla

**Zip Code**

92037

**Type**

Private School

**Grades to be Reopened**

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5

6  
K

**Number of Students in Reopening Grades**

130

**Number of Staff at Reopening Sites**

50

**Proposed Reopening Date**

08/31/20

**Labor Organization**

The Children's School does not have a labor union. The Children's School employees were surveyed asking the following question, "I support The Children's School application for an elementary school waiver for in-person instruction, pursuant to the guidance of state and local authorities; agree or disagree." We received 38 responses from TCS employees with 68% in agreement that we apply for this waiver. Employee names and comments were collected as part of the survey.

Survey details are provided in an attached supporting document.

**Parent Organization**

The Children's School parents were surveyed asking the following question, "I support The Children's School application for an elementary school waiver for in-person instruction, pursuant to the guidance of state and local authorities; agree or disagree." We received 133 responses from TCS parents with 85% in agreement that we apply for this waiver.

Survey details are provided in an attached supporting document.

**Community Organization**

The Children's School received letters supporting this application from the Board of Trustees, learning support specialists that work with our at-risk population, enrichment providers, as well as a neighbor and alumnus parent.

Letters are provided in attached supporting documents

**1. Published on Webpage**

<https://tcslj.org/blog/uncategorized/covid-19-preventionreopening-plan/>

Direct link to Google Doc:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1uC-5fkPDRcCA-wpRBncppZKdIJgfyNZgF5u8NaHeJ4I/edit?usp=sharing>

### **1.A) Webpage Section/Page**

page 2, section 1, question 1

### **1.B) Webpage Language**

TCS has posted the COVID-19 Plan to the website and shared via email to employees and parents. Resource materials are linked through the plan and have been emailed to parents.

## **2. Distance Learning**

YES

### **2.A) Distance Learning Section/Page**

page 20, section 10, question 53

### **2.B) Distance Learning Language**

Distance learning will parallel in-person learning and will prevent students who are isolated at home from falling behind. TCS will work with families to ensure access for all students as required by federal and state law. All students have been offered the option of distance learning for the duration of the year.

## **3. Physical Distancing**

YES

### **3. A) Phys. Distance Section/Page**

pages 11-12, section 6, question 27 AND page 13, section 6, question 28

### **3. B) Physical Distancing Language**

During daily symptom and temperature screening, students will be asked to remain in cars until they are called up to be screened. There will be two screening stations, and they will be more than 6 feet apart. Start times will be staggered to decrease the number of students waiting to be screened at any one time.

Elementary students will stay in a fixed cohort. Students will spend the majority of their day with their core teacher, and outdoor instruction will be used as much as possible. Students will work at desks with a minimum of six feet between each student; couches and other furniture have been removed from classrooms to aid in distancing. Teachers will be separated from all students by a minimum of six feet, with an additional physical barrier between student desks and the teacher.

Every class has a designated outdoor space, and students will have designated individual outdoor seats, which will be spaced at least six feet apart. Specialty class teachers have been provided with tented

outdoor teaching spaces. Teachers will develop procedures to maximize distancing and minimize movement both indoors and outside, including designating pathways across campus. Electronic assignments will be used to the greatest extent practicable. Faculty will be trained in Google Classroom to facilitate the use of electronic assignments.

#### **4. Stable Cohorts**

YES

##### **4. A) Stable Section/Page**

pages 11, section 6, question 27 AND page 12, section 6, question 28 AND page 14, section 6, question 29

##### **4. B) Stable Cohorts Language**

Start and end times will be staggered to decrease the number of students waiting to be screened at any one time, and to minimize contact between groups of students.

To reduce possibilities for infection, students will remain in the same space and in consistent, small pods, including for recess and lunch, during their time on campus. TCS will keep the same teacher with each group to the greatest extent practicable.

TCS will take additional steps to reduce the risk of infection spread. Non essential visitors and volunteers will not be allowed on campus. TCS does not have activities involving other groups. Outdoor space will be utilized for instruction and TCS has rented large tents in order to create shaded outdoor classrooms. Communal activities, such as Community Meeting, will take place virtually. Class movement in the corridors will be staggered to reduce congregations of students and teachers. Recesses and lunches will be held outdoors in designated areas and students will be kept in stable classroom groupings during these times. A schedule has been created that designates separate play spaces for stable cohorts to use to prevent congregations of large groups of students.

#### **5. Face Coverings**

YES

##### **5.A)Face Covering Section/Page**

pages 6, section 3, question 14

##### **5.B) Face Covering Language**

All employees, visitors, and students in kindergarten through eighth grade are required to wear face coverings on campus in the absence of a specific exemption, as documented by a doctor, in accordance with CDPH guidelines.

TCS's plan regarding face coverings includes or exceeds all of the above elements. Students under two years old will not be required to wear face covering. Students in early childhood will be strongly encouraged to wear masks. Students in kindergarten through eighth

grade will be required to wear masks while on campus, except during mealtimes and when outdoors if physical distancing can be maintained. Students will be provided with clean paper bags to store their face masks while eating, napping, or engaged in outdoor recreation. All adults and students grades kindergarten and above will be required to wear a face covering while on campus. Students who are not exempt who refuse to do so will be asked to leave campus. TCS will have face coverings available for anyone who forgets to bring one or loses one while on campus.

Students and staff will be frequently reminded not to touch the face coverings and to wash their hands frequently. Staff and families in the school community have received information on the proper use, removal, and washing of cloth face coverings. Education on these topics will be repeated throughout the year. During the August work week employees will be trained on how people who are exempted from wearing a face covering will be addressed.

## **6. Cleaning and Disinfection**

YES

### **6. A) Cleaning and Disinfecting Section/Page**

page 10, section 5, question 21 AND page 9, section 5, question 18-19

### **6. B) Cleaning and Disinfecting Language**

TCS has restructured instruction methods to limit use and sharing of objects and equipment, such as toys, games, art supplies and playground equipment. When shared use is allowed, teachers will clean and disinfect between uses.

Drinking fountains have been disabled and students will be asked to use personal water bottles labeled with their names. TCS has removed all couches and cushions from classrooms. The day porter and/or teachers will clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces and objects (examples: desks, doorknobs, light switches, etc.) between uses, such as during recess and lunch breaks. A full disinfection protocol will take place once all the students have gone home at the end of the day.

TCS has contracted with City Wide Janitorial to have frequently-touched surfaces cleaned multiple times a day. A "day porter" will be present on campus to ensure high touch surfaces and bathrooms can be cleaned, both on a regular schedule, and additionally as necessary during the day. All rooms will be cleaned thoroughly, nightly.

The Director of Finance and the Facilities Manager have conducted a walk through of all offices and classrooms with representatives from City Wide Janitorial to ensure all protocols will be followed. Additionally, The Director of Finance will meet monthly with City Wide to further ensure all protocols are being followed. Rooms will be aired out before children arrive the next day.

## **7. Entrance, Egress and Movement**

YES

### **7. A) Entrance/Movement Section/Page**

page 11-12, section 6, question 27 AND page 9, section 5, question 20

### **7. B) Entrance/Movement Language**

The school will have three entry and exit points for students, parents, and faculty, Cohorts of students have been assigned a timeframe for arrival and departure at their designated spots.

During daily symptom and temperature screening, students will be asked to remain in cars until they are called up to be screened.

Parents are encouraged to remain in their vehicles, and arrows and markings will ensure students maintain distance during arrival and screening. There will be two screening stations, and they will be more than 6 feet apart. Start and end times will be staggered to decrease the number of students waiting to be screened at any one time, and to minimize contact between groups of students. Parents who need to escort younger children to their screening and during pickup will be required to wear a mask. Recess and lunch times have been staggered.

TCS does not utilize buses.

### **8. Health Screenings**

YES

### **8. A) Health Screening Section/Page**

page 17, section 9, question 39

### **8. B) Health Screening Language**

Students and staff will be encouraged to stay home if they or a family member are sick. Families and staff will be provided with an app through eMocha which will allow them to submit answers to screening questions electronically, before entering campus.

Alternatively, families and staff may be screened at the gate for both symptoms and fever. Only those who have answered no to all questions for the day in question, and have a temperature below 100.00 will be permitted to enter campus.

### **8. C) Language for Symptomatic Students or Staff**

TCS staff will conduct visual wellness screenings throughout the day and students or employees exhibiting COVID-like symptoms will be isolated and sent home immediately. The school will recommend to anyone who screens with symptoms or fever to get a Covid-19 test with their healthcare provider or at a community testing site.

### **9. Healthy Hygiene Practices**

YES

### **9. A) Healthy Hygiene Section/Page**

page 4, section 2, question 6 AND page 4, section 2, question 7-8

## **9. B) Healthy Hygiene Language**

Teachers have been informed of hand washing protocols, and additional faculty training on protocols will be conducted during the August work week. Teachers will train students on appropriate protocols for hand washing, use of hand sanitizer, and use of tissues. Signage will be placed at all sinks, and teachers will monitor hand washing. Fragrance free hand sanitizer will be used when hand washing is not practicable.

Sixteen out of eighteen classrooms are equipped with sinks where students and teachers may wash their hands. Additionally, the school has ten bathrooms, each with multiple sinks, available for student use. All sinks have been upgraded with touch-free faucets to further reduce the risk of cross contamination.

The ability of students to wash their hands in classrooms will greatly minimize movement and congregation in bathrooms, and will allow for regular hand washing. The availability of sinks in classrooms will also allow students and staff to regularly wash their hands at staggered intervals.

## **10. Identification and Tracing of Contacts**

YES

### **10. A) Identification and Tracing Section/Page**

page 22, section 11, question 58

### **10. B) Identification and Tracing Language**

██████████ is serving as the school COVID liaison officer, and staff will be trained and instructed to contact him should an issue occur. All employees and families will be informed of his responsibilities, and he will be available to answer any questions or concerns. He will also track any possible exposures and work with SDHHS to notify all required parties of that exposure. On advice from SDHHS, ██████████ will create and submit a list of exposed students and staff to SDHHS and notify exposed persons.

## **11. Staff Training and Family Education**

YES

### **11. A) Staff Training and Family Edu. Section/Page**

page 2, section 1, question 1

### **11. B) Staff Training and Family Edu. Language**

TCS has posted the COVID-19 Plan to the website and shared via email to employees and parents. Resource materials are linked through the plan and have been emailed to parents. Staff will be trained during the August work week, and refresher trainings will continue throughout the year at regularly scheduled staff meetings. Staff has been provided with educational materials and tools for implementing the protocols. Students will be given handwashing

instruction and other training in hygiene and habits that support health.

## **12. Testing of Students and Staff**

YES

### **12. A) Testing Section/Page**

page 20, section 10, question 52 AND page 22, section 11, question 58

### **12. B) Testing Language**

Staff or students sent home with COVID-like symptoms will be asked to provide documentation of a negative COVID test, to provide a note from a doctor stating the person is COVID free, or wait ten days after the symptoms began before returning to TCS.

Students and staff with symptoms of Covid-19 will be encouraged to get testing through their health care provider or at a community testing site.

### **12. C) Staff Tested Periodically Language**

TCS will conduct preventative testing of employees as practicable to monitor possible infections among employees. TCS is working to contract with a medical service provider for routine testing. The role of providing routine systematic testing of staff or students for COVID-19 (e.g., PCR swab testing for acute infection, or presence of antibodies in serum after infection) is currently unclear.

## **13. Triggers for Switching to Distance Learning**

YES

### **13. A) Triggers to Dist. Learning Section/Page**

pp 23-24, section 12, question 60

### **13.B) Triggers to Dist. Learning Language**

TCS will work with County of San Diego public health officials to determine triggers for switching to distance learning, and will follow the recommended measures outlined in the COVID-19 and Reopening In-Person Learning Framework for K-12 Schools in California, 2020-2021 school year.

In consultation with the local public health department, the Head of School may decide whether school closure versus cleaning and quarantine of exposed persons or other intervention is warranted, including the length of time necessary, based on the risk level within the specific community as determined by the local public health officer.

## **14. Communication Plans**

YES

**14. A) Communication Plans Section/Page**

page 20, section 16, question 52

**14. B) Communication Plans Language**

Any known positive cases will be immediately reported to the County Office of Public Health. TCS community members will be notified of cases based on health department recommendations. These notifications will be consistent with privacy requirements such as Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).

**Superintendent Name**

John Fowler

**Job Title**

Head of School

**Phone**

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**District name**

Private School

**District School(s) Name**

**Attachments**

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8 Attachments

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