



Implementing Cohort Based Instruction

Lessons learned, resources developed, and opportunities for growth



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Goal

- Share Strategic Plan & Protocols for MCOE office, schools, and student programs in the age of COVID-19.
 - To serve as model for other schools and districts



Implementation

- Identified **stakeholders** and established **task force**;
- Researched **best practices & protocols** (CDC, OSHA, Public Health);
- Planned and implemented **Pop-Up Childcare Centers**;
- Created **documents** and **designed trainings**, presented Focus Groups;
- Shared **documents** and **FAQs to staff, districts, agencies**;
- Transitioned back to **Central Office** and **Piloted school programs**;
- Beginning **Summer programs**
- Secure **EPE** (**E**ssential Protective Equipment) supplies.



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***All steps executed with guidance Public Health**

***Procedures, protocols, and documents always evolving**



Focus on the **process not the outcome.**

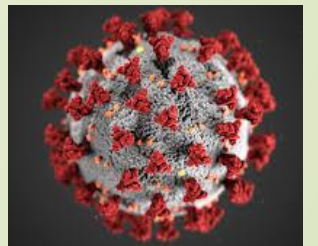
Involve stakeholders.

Parameters

- ☐ Plan is being implemented in **phases**,
- ☐ COVID-19 is with us for the foreseeable future and we must begin reopening certain aspects of our society within the confines of this new reality, and
- ☐ There are proven strategies to accomplish this in a way that lowers the probability of exposure and allows for contact tracing if someone becomes symptomatic.



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Phase II: Summer 2020

❖ Phase I

- MCOE Office Department and Pilot School Cohorts
 - Seven cohorts (San Jose Middle School, Marindale, Lagunitas, MCS)

❖ Phase II Summer Programs

- 22 Special Education, 2 Alt Ed. 1 ROP, 1 AVID program
- 3- 6 weeks, starting June 15 or June 22, ending July 31

❖ Phase III Fall 2020-21



The Cohort Structure



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Start With What We Know

- Needs of some students are not being met
- 85% + of parents surveyed are ready
- Public Health guidance focused on health and safety of students and staff
- The cohort structure works (3,669 examples)
- The cohort size (for now) = 12 students + staff (educators may move through multiple cohorts)
- Medically fragile students may not be able to participate
- Distance learning is part of the plan



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Physical Distancing



KEEP
6 FEET
APART

- Space seating and desks at least 6 feet apart where feasible;
- Use partitions between desks;
- Mark classroom floors to promote distancing;
- Arrange desks in a way that minimizes face-to-face contact.



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Start With What We Know

- Some parents will choose not to participate,
- Starting small is good,
- It is going to look different,
- Student Transportation is a core challenge,
- There is still much that we do not know, and
- It starts with a small step.



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Addressing the Needs of Adults



- Administrators, teachers, staff and parents all are experiencing a degree of fear and anxiety; and
- Take the time to plan, discuss, address questions and concerns.



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It's going to look different



- Curbside drop off / Health Screening,
- Temperature Checks (for now),
- Staggered start times,
- Lots of handwashing,
- Face coverings,
- No visitors or parent volunteers,
- No recess (as we know it) or assemblies,
- Scheduled outdoor recreation times,
- Streamlined classrooms, and
- Health and Safety Stations.



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Getting Ready



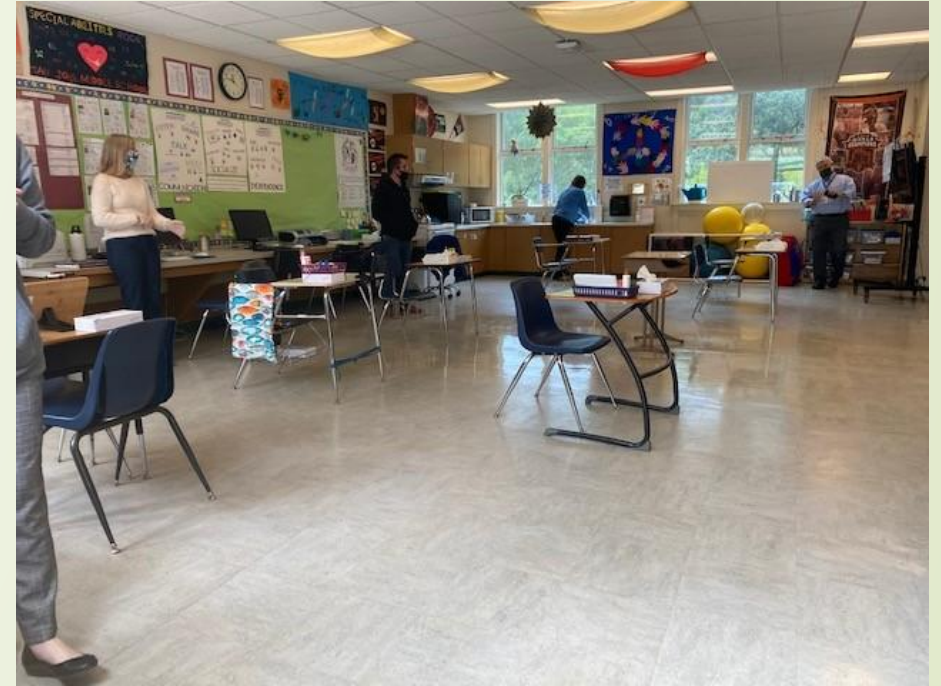
**Health Check-In Point
at Entry**

- Set a target opening date, be flexible
- Conduct a preliminary walk through
- Curbside drop off location and plan
- Declutter classrooms / Design layout
- Restroom and handwashing protocols
- Essential Protective Equipment (EPE)
- Student Transportation options
- Outreach to parents
- Assign roles to get to “ready”

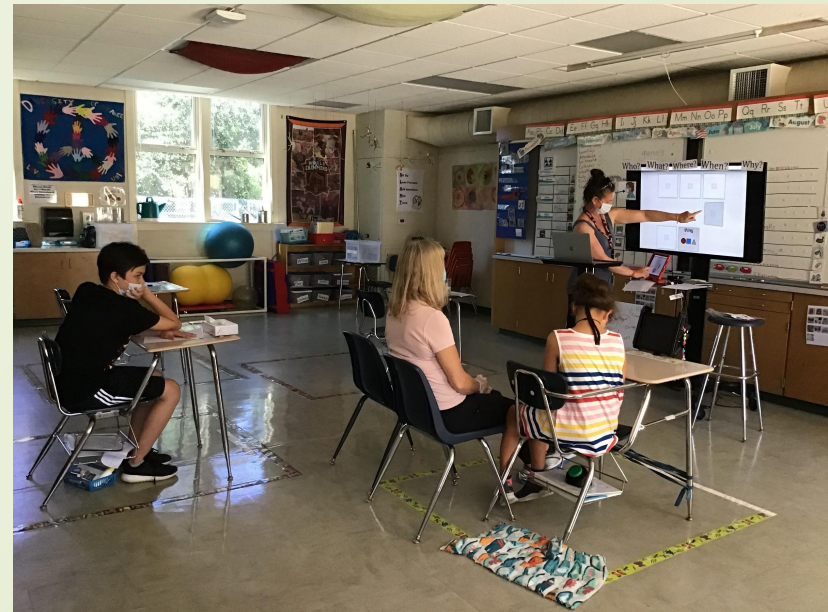


Classroom Layout

Health & Safety Station Upon Entry



Reduce “Clutter” As
Much As Possible



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Classroom Layout



Supplies for
Individual Students



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The Day Before Opening



- Tape on the ground
- Check-in table
- Health and Safety Kits
- Daily Health Screening Questions
- **Cohort Tracking and Attendance***
- Outreach to parents

**Samples provided.*

Materials



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Daily Health Check-In Upon Entry

Four Questions

1. Do you or your child live with anyone or have you or your child had close contact with anyone with a prolonged cough, fever, flu-like symptoms or been diagnosed with COVID-19 within the last 14 days? *

☐ Yes

☐ No

2. Do you or your child have a fever, cough and/or shortness of breath? For children and adults, fever is 100.4 degrees or above using a forehead thermometer.

☐ Yes

☐ No

3. Do you or your child have any other signs of communicable illness such as a cold, flu, rash or inflammation?

☐ Yes

☐ No

4. Have you or your child experienced diarrhea or vomiting (within the past 24 hours)? *

☐ Yes

☐ No

Yes Response → Contact PH

Soft Opening



- A few students is a great start
- Emotion is high
- The overall experience of staff and students is extremely positive
- Grow the cohort over time
- Open another cohort!

**Temperature Check for Staff
& Students**



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Experience & Challenges

- Students and Parents: EXTREMELY happy to be back :)
- The Daily Health Check-In went very smoothly
- Students jumped right back into their routines
 - It was obvious they missed being in the classroom
- Personal space was understood
 - We had been practicing this since the beginning of school year
- Face covering
 - Not as challenging as I thought, but probably the hardest part of the protocols
- Zoom with students that were not in the class and SLP, OT, Qigong, dog visits



Questions, Challenges, and the Unknowns

- Cohort size
- Specialists - Speech and Language Therapists, IT support
- Student Transportation Strategies
 - Parent Drivers / Staff Drivers
 - Cohort Based Bus Schedules
 - Safe Routes to Schools “PED PODs”
- Classroom Space
- Outdoor Recreation
- Student Face Coverings!

Before



Today



New Information and Resources

- [06-05-20 CA Department of Public Schools/School-Based Guidance](#)
- [06-20 CA Department of Education “Stronger Together: A Guidebook for the Safe Reopening of California’s Public Schools](#)
- [05-15-20 Public Health Order for Marin County](#)
- [School Protocols for response to symptoms or potential exposure](#)
- [SAMPLE Cohort Tracking and Attendance Document](#)
- [COVID-19 Site Specific Protection Plan \(Marin Recovers\)](#)



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Visit our Website for Additional Resources on Rethinking Schools in the Age of COVID-19

<https://bit.ly/MCOERethinkingSchool>

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Guided By Public Health

The Marin County Office of Education (MCOE) is committed to ongoing collaboration with Marin County schools under the guidance of our Public Health Officers to meet the challenges we face in delivering high-quality education to our students in the age of COVID-19. To that end, we have formed a team of MCOE staff who are designing, implementing and sharing protocols, procedures and processes to return to site-based classroom instruction. The *MCOE Rethinking Schools Task*

Additional Resources for Staff

- ☐ Availability for Check-ins (Zoom, Teams or Conference Calls)
- ☐ Questions, suggestions or concerns directed to Mike Grant's office
 - ☐ 415-499- 5849 (ext. 849)
 - ☐ RapidResponse@marinschools.org

**Provide Time for Staff
Questions, Comments,
Concerns**

**Provide Contact for
Questions, Suggestions,
Concerns**

Listen to team members throughout process.

Questions



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