



Thermalito Union Elementary School District Frequently Asked Questions About Returning To Campus

Are students required to wear a mask?

Yes, California has a [statewide mask mandate](#). It is mandatory for everyone to wear a mask while on campus with very few exceptions.

How is the TLC Preschool handling masks?

TLC Preschool follows [CDPH Childcare Guidance](#) and TUESD's guidance regarding masks.

Can a student wear a face shield instead of a mask?

TK-2: Students in grades TK-2 are asked to wear face masks. If a student is unable to wear a face mask properly, the student can wear a face shield instead of a face mask. When needed, TUESD will provide a shield to TK-2 students for use while at school. TUESD will also provide face masks if students need one.

Grades 3 and up: Students in grade 3 and up who wish to wear a face shield instead of a mask need to complete the [Student Face Mask Medical Exemption](#) Form and the shield must have a drape.

Are students required to wear a mask at recess?

Masks can be removed when outdoors as long as students maintain social distancing. Paper bags have been purchased for each student in every class so students can safely store their masks when they are not in use.

Are masks required at PE?

Per the CDPH guidance, cloth face coverings must be worn during indoor physical education classes. Activities conducted inside will be those that do not require heavy exertion and can be done with a face covering. Activities that require heavy exertion will be conducted outside in a physically distanced manner without face coverings.

What about students who have asthma or other medical needs?

Students with asthma or other medical needs should discuss the use of face coverings with their doctor. If your doctor determines that your child has a medical exemption please complete this [Student Face Mask Medical Exemption](#) Form and return it to the office at your child's school.

What if a student struggles with wearing a mask?

Staff will be encouraging all students to wear a mask. Students in 3rd grade and above that can not adhere to health guidelines, and are not medically exempt, may not be eligible for in-person instruction. The student will be offered educational opportunities through distance learning.

What can we do now to help our children be prepared to wear masks at school for long periods of time? If not a current practice, we encourage all families to begin “practicing” wearing masks for longer periods of time. Work with your child to increase their tolerance of wearing masks by increasing the frequency and duration of wearing masks at home and when out in public places.

What if my child forgets a mask or loses their mask during the day? Fabric masks are required for all students and staff at all times, unless eating and/or maintaining 6 ft of physical distancing. Students and staff are encouraged to use an appropriate face mask of their choosing. Schools will have a supply of face coverings available should a student forget his/her face mask at home.

When should a student stay home from school?

A student should stay home from school if he/she has a fever of 100.4 degrees or higher or any of the following symptoms that are new and not attributed to allergies or pre-existing conditions:

new and persistent cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, chills/shaking, fatigue or muscle pain from an unknown cause, new onset of a moderate or severe headache, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea or sudden loss of taste or smell

Parents must adhere to daily symptom screenings and sign the [Daily C19 screening - Parent-Guardian-Agreement](#)

What happens when a student develops a fever at school or other COVID-19 symptoms as listed above?

A mask will immediately be placed on the student (if not already in place) and the student will be evaluated by designated school staff. If deemed necessary, the student will wait in a designated waiting area and parents will be asked to pick up their child immediately.

Will there be temperature checks and symptom screenings upon arrival?

No, prior to arrival at school, parents are expected to screen children daily for symptoms and to stay home if they are experiencing any of the [symptoms of COVID-19](#).

Parents/guardians must call the main office of their child’s school to report absences, daily.

Parents must adhere to daily symptom screenings and sign the [Daily C19 screening - Parent-Guardian-Agreement](#)

What if a student tests positive for COVID-19?

Students who test positive for COVID-19 may not return until they have met [CDC criteria to discontinue home isolation](#), including at least 1 day with no fever (without using fever reducing medication), symptoms have improved **and** at least 10 days since symptoms first appeared. Butte County Public Health will provide written documentation of release from isolation. Upon return, parents and students should check in at the main office and provide this documentation.

What if someone in a student’s class tests positive for COVID-19?

Individuals who were in close contact with the person who tested positive will be required to quarantine and will be placed on the distance learning plan for 14 days.

If the whole class is required to quarantine, the classroom teacher would transition the whole class to distance learning. If the teacher is unable to hold instruction, other staff or a substitute teacher will be secured to provide remote instruction.

What are some of the cleaning and safety protocols being put in place?

- Hand sanitizing stations will be placed throughout each campus
- Entrances and exits are equipped with proper sanitation products, including alcohol-based hand sanitizer and/or sanitizing wipes.
- Hand washing facilities will always stay operational and stocked with soap, paper towels, and hand sanitizer are supplied when needed.
- Campuses will limit use and sharing of objects and equipment, such as toys, games, art supplies and playground equipment to the extent practicable.
- Staff will introduce fresh outdoor air as much as possible, for example, by opening windows and doors where practicable.
- Staff shall clean and disinfect frequently-touched surfaces on a daily basis.
- Ion air scrubbers are being installed in all classroom HVAC systems.

Will drinking fountains be available to students?

Drinking fountains will be turned off. Sinks and other water bottle fillers, if on campus, will be available for students to fill their own water bottles.

Where do I find information about bus transportation?

You can call the transportation department at 530-538-2960 or email Email: JLopez@Thermalito.org and use this link for a [Transportation Request Form](#).

What are some reference documents that I can access?

[CDPH School Guidance](#) (issued August 3, 2020)

[CDPH Guidance on Returning to School or Work after COVID-19 Diagnosis](#)

[CDPH Schools Guidance FAQs](#)

[CDPH Guidance for Face Coverings](#)

[California Department of Education Coronavirus Response and School Reopening Guidance](#)

[CDC Guidance for Schools and Child Care Programs](#)