

December 2, 2020

Guidance Amendment #6: 2020-2021 School Year Planning: A Guide to Address the Challenges of COVID-19

On July 17, 2020, the California Department of Health (CDPH) released its [COVID-19 and Reopening In-Person Learning Framework](#). The framework was developed to support school communities in making decisions about when and how to resume in-person instruction since mid-March, when schools in San Joaquin County and the state closed campuses and began to provide distance learning to reduce transmission of COVID-19.

The framework has been one of the guiding documents schools and school districts have followed during the 2020-21 academic year as they have resumed in-person instruction as allowed by the state. Schools have had options to resume in-person instruction, including:

- To provide instruction and specialized support services to small cohorts of students, such as students with special needs;
- If they successfully applied for a waiver allowing resumption of in-person instruction for students from transitional kindergarten through sixth grade;
- If a TK-12 school was located in a county that had been designated to be in the Substantial (red) tier under California's [Blueprint for a Safer Economy](#) for two weeks.

The CDPH framework from July 17 includes guidance for schools open to in-person instruction to follow when a confirmed COVID-19 case, suspected COVID-19 case, or exposure to COVID-19 is identified among students or school employees.

The San Joaquin County Office of Education (SJCOE) is issuing this December 2, 2020, Guidance Amendment #6 to the 2020-2021 School Year Planning: A Guide to Address the Challenges of COVID-19 to provide clarification and guidance for schools in San Joaquin County to follow when confirmed or suspected COVID-19 cases are identified in a school community. Guidance Amendment #6 was approved by the San Joaquin County Public Health Officer.

The steps schools in San Joaquin County should follow are outlined in the [San Joaquin County Public Health Services \(SJCPHS\) School Resource grid](#) to provide specific guidance based on the CDPH framework. The guidance document updates and replaces previous COVID-19 response flowcharts. For reference, the [Replaced COVID-19 Flowcharts](#) are available online.

The school planning document for San Joaquin County -- 2020-2021 School Year Planning: A Guide to Address the Challenges of COVID-19 -- was developed by the SJCOE and SJCPHS in collaboration with superintendents from the county's 14 school districts before its release on June

17, 2020. Aligned with CDPH recommendations and approved by the San Joaquin County Public Health Officer, the document was based on the best available information about COVID-19 in the county at the time of its development and publication. The guidance in the document was subject to revision as circumstances related to COVID-19 changed.

The original planning documents and all amendments can be found at <http://www.sjcoe.org/healthsafety>.

More information and guidance documents can be found at the state's COVID-19 information website at covid19.ca.gov and the CDPH website at cdph.ca.gov.