TRACEY BELTON AGENCY DIRECTOR



SAN BENITO COUNTY

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES Healthy People in Healthy Communities

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION WAIVER FOR IN-PERSON EDUCATION

Public, Private and Charter Schools

Hollister, California August 7, 2020: On August 3, 2020, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) detailed the process for elementary schools to request a waiver to resume in-person instruction in counties on the state monitoring list. Limitations apply for counties on the State's monitoring list.

- <u>Schools Guidance FAQs</u>
- <u>COVID-19 and Reopening In-Person Learning Elementary Education Waiver Process</u>
- <u>Waiver Letter Template and Cover Form</u> and <u>Waiver Notice</u>

School Waiver Process for Elementary Schools:

The waiver may only be submitted to the Local Public Health Department by a district superintendent, private school principal or head of school, or executive director of a charter school. All waiver applications must show the decision to apply for the waiver was determined in consultation with parent, labor, and community organizations at each school site for which an application is being submitted.

This waiver is applicable only for grades TK-6, even if the grade configuration at the school includes additional grades.

Parents, teachers, staff and community members should contact their school directly with questions or comments about the waiver and should not contact San Benito County Public Health regarding the waiver process. Schools are required to consult with these groups prior to submitting a waiver.

In considering the waiver application, the Public Health Officer must review local community epidemiological data, consider other public health interventions, and consult with California Department of Public Health (CDPH) to determine if the waiver will be granted.

The State recommends that counties on the monitoring list with 14-day case rates more than two times the threshold (200 cases per 100,000 residents) **should not be considered** for a waiver to reopen in-person instruction.

On July 17, 2020, CDPH released the <u>COVID-19 and Reopening in-Person Learning Framework for K-12</u> <u>Schools in California, 2020-2021 School Year</u>. The framework applies to public, charter and private schools. San Benito County is currently on the State's monitoring list and must conduct distancing learning until it is off the list for 14 days. Schools **cannot open** for in-person instruction **without a waiver** until San Benito County is off the list for 14 days.

The status of each county and the monitoring list can be found online at, <u>https://covid19.ca.gov/roadmapcounties/.</u> Scroll to the middle of the webpage to view the map.

A complete list of Industry Guidance can be found at https://covid19.ca.gov/industry-guidance/

COVID-19 Hotline: 831-636-4113 or publichealthreferral@cosb.us

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