Framework for Reopening Ventura Unified Schools

CONTEXT
Based on federal, state, and local guidance Ventura County schools recognize the unique and distinctive conditions shaping return-to-school opportunities and challenges accompanying the 2020-2021 school year. Ventura Unified School District will consult with Public Health in reviewing and/or approving plans to ensure continuity of education. We remain committed to our promise of safe, high-performing schools to students, families, and staff.

CIRCULATION/MITIGATION
The virus that causes COVID-19 will remain in circulation until a vaccine is developed and widely used.

1. Short-term closures of classrooms, partial school facilities, or whole schools remain likely.
2. Children and staff with significant health conditions will continue to be especially vulnerable during this time. Accommodations related to personal protective equipment (PPE), including for school health personnel, should be considered.
3. Reinforcing behaviors (i.e. social distancing, handwashing and cough/sneeze etiquette) and frequent disinfecting of high-touch surfaces will be needed.
4. As students with COVID-19 symptoms may be encouraged to stay home, consider call-in or virtual participation in face-to-face classes.

MODIFICATIONS FOR SCHOOL OPERATIONS
As we reopen schools, school operations considerations include our ability to determine criteria for safety including:

1. Proactively screening students and staff for symptoms. This includes initial screening of students new to Ventura County and California
2. Maintain appropriate social distancing in and during:
   a. Pick-up / drop-off
   b. Classrooms
   c. Campus areas
   d. Office spaces
   e. Assemblies / sports / extracurricular
   f. Transportation
3. Limit non-essential personnel access to school/district buildings by encouraging video conferencing and online communication
4. Integrate before and after school program staff in district training and procedures, as appropriate.
MODIFICATIONS FOR SCHOOL OPERATIONS CONT.

5. Modify schedules to accommodate a variety of class sizes:
   a. Group consistent cohorts of students
   b. Integrate blended learning approaches, with both scheduled and flexible learning experiences
   c. Provide flexibility to provide a number of ways to meet the needs of Special Education students and other diverse learners, emphasizing flexibility.
   d. Reduce student movement between classrooms and across campus
   e. Limit student exposure to a set array of school personnel by continuing to utilize digital interactions
   f. Alter schedules to stagger start times, create multiple recess and lunch periods and potentially limiting where students eat meals
   g. Rotate or block schedules

MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT
Fear, loss, and isolation may result in the need for coordinated mental health supports.

1. Prior to students returning to school campuses, provide communication familiarizing families and staff with environmental and procedural changes to schools and work environments.
2. Limit to public gatherings, consider hosting small group and/or virtual campus walk-through.
3. Related to public gatherings, consider hosting small group and/or virtual sessions designed to address the needs of students, families, and staff.
4. Maximize existing supports and/or explore agreements with county agencies to support ongoing mental health needs of students, families and staff.