

# Alameda County Elementary School Waiver Process



Update to the Board of Education  
September 22, 2020  
Pasquale Scuderi, Superintendent

# Presentation Goals

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- Understand current waiver process and associated timelines
- Discuss a recommended waiver concept
- Provide detail
- Get direction from Board on next steps

# Alameda County Waiver Process: Definition

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A district superintendent, private school principal/head of school, or executive director of a charter school may apply for a waiver from the local health officer to open an elementary school for in-person instruction while the county is still unable to offer in-person instruction under California's Blueprint for a Safer Economy color-based, tiered system.

# Elementary Waivers VS. Specialized Small Group Supports

	Elementary Waivers	Specialized Small Groups
<i>Does county need to be off purple tier?</i>	No	No
<i>Which student groups can be served?</i>	TK-6 Students	Specialized groups of all grades: Special Education and English Learner students prioritized
<i>What services can be offered?</i>	In-person instruction under specified conditions	Occupational therapy, speech and language; other medical services, behavioral services, for example
<i>What agencies must approve plan before offering?</i>	County Public Health State Public Health	None
<i>Max size of groups participating?</i>	Dependent on factors listed in state and county guidance on distancing	Max 16 participants Cannot exceed 25% of school's building capacity

# School Reopening Criteria and Current Public Health Data

County risk level	New cases	Positive tests
<b>WIDESPREAD</b> Most schools are closed to in-person instruction, unless they meet certain conditions	<b>More than 7</b> daily new cases (per 100k)	<b>More than 8%</b> positive tests
<b>SUBSTANTIAL</b> Schools can reopen for in-person instruction after they have remained in the red tier for 14 days	<b>4 - 7</b> daily new cases (per 100k)	<b>5 - 8%</b> positive tests
<b>MODERATE</b> Schools can reopen for in-person instruction based on state and county guidance	<b>1 - 3.9</b> daily new cases (per 100k)	<b>2 - 4.9%</b> positive tests
<b>MINIMAL</b> Schools can reopen for in-person instruction based on state and county guidance	<b>Less than 1</b> daily new cases (per 100k)	<b>Less than 2%</b> positive tests

Source: California Department of Public Health (Covid19.CA.GOV)

## Alameda County Current Metrics

**New Cases 5.6**

**Positive Tests 3.4%**

UPDATED 9-16-20

*Counties that move from purple to red can open for in-person instruction after they have remained in the red tier for 14 days. However, some counties may have stricter rules in place prohibiting schools from opening.*

# General Timelines

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9/3/20 Details on Preliminary Questionnaire

9/11/20 Questionnaire Due

9/18/20 Original Deadline for Application

9/22/20 Board Discussion

10/2/20 New Deadline for Waiver Application

# Potential Process

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10/2 Submit Waiver Application

10/17 (approx) Decision on application from ACPHD

10/27 ACDPH decision brought back to Board (OR SPECIAL MEETING)

*Approved waiver would not be enacted without local direction from AUSD Board.*

# Calendar Considerations and Timelines

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Calendar

Plus complications from flu and wildfire

# Schedule for Modified In-Person Elementary Return

## Flexible Learning On Campus Schedule 2: Elementary A/B Group Cohorts

Morning's on campus with group A and afternoons on campus with group B, no lunch on campus, individual cohort recess schedule

Student Cohorts:

2 hours and 40 minutes

<i>Early staggered schedule</i>	<i>Mid staggered schedule</i>	<i>Late staggered schedule</i>	Monday	Tuesday	Wed.	Thursday	Friday
8:10 - 10:50	8:30 - 11:00	8:50 - 11:20	Small group time built into cohort time A Group (on campus)		<i>Students off campus asynchronous time</i>	Small group time built into cohort time A Group (on campus)	
10:50 - 11:30	11:10 - 11:50	11:30 - 12:10	Teacher Lunch <i>Students may pick up lunch</i>			Teacher Lunch <i>Students may pick up lunch</i>	
11:30 - 12:10	11:50 - 12:30	12:10 - 12:50	Cleaning time/asynchronous planning time			Cleaning time/asynchronous planning time	
12:10 - 2:50	12:30 - 3:10	12:50 - 3:30	Small group time built into cohort time B Group (on campus)			B Group (on campus)	

# Phase 2: Elementary

## Flexible Learning On Campus Schedule 3: Elementary Full Class Cohort

100% student cohort, lunch in classroom, individual cohort recess schedule, reduced day schedule to honor contractual lunch and prep

Early staggered schedule	Mid staggered schedule	Late staggered schedule	Monday	Tuesday	Wed.	Thursday	Friday
8:10 - 8:50	8:30 - 9:10	8:50 - 9:30	Small Group (on campus)		Students off campus asynchronous time	Small Group (on campus)	
8:50 - 9:00	9:10 - 9:20	9:30 - 9:40	Break/recess			Break/recess	
9:00 - 11:10	9:20 - 11:30	9:40 - 11:50	All Group Instruction (on campus)			All Group Instruction (on campus)	
11:10 - 11:55	11:30 - 12:15	11:50 - 12:35	Student/teacher lunch in classroom and rotating recess			Student/teacher lunch in classroom and rotating recess	
11:55 - 2:05	12:15 - 2:25	12:35 - 2:45	All Group Instruction (on campus)			All Group Instruction (on campus)	
2:05 - 2:50	2:25 - 3:10	2:45 - 3:30	Teacher contractual lunch give at the end of the day			Teacher contractual lunch give at the end of the day	

# Concept for Recommended Waiver

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- Limit waiver to TK-2nd Grade
- Generally more manageable
- Distance learning challenges more pronounced in the younger grades

# Waiver Checklist

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- Cleaning, Disinfection and Ventilation
- Cohorting
- Physical Distancing
- Entrance, Egress, and Movement within the School
- Face Coverings and other Essential Protective Gear
- Health Screenings for Students and Staff
- Healthy Hygiene Practices
- Identification and Tracing of Contacts
- Staff Training and Family Education
- Testing of Staff
- Triggers to Switch to Distance Learning
- Communication Plans
- Consultation with Key Constituents

# Testing of Staff

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“Describe how staff will be tested periodically to detect asymptomatic infections (e.g. Screening Testing), including the name of a testing provider the school or district is planning to partner with”

“An executed memorandum of understanding or contract with a testing provider will be required by your reopening date.”

Examples of recommended frequency for Screening Testing include testing all staff over 2 months, where 25% of staff are tested every 2 weeks, or 50% every month to rotate testing of all staff over time.

# Testing of Staff

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Vendors and Community Testing Sites

Cost

Logistics

Follow-Up and Missed Tests or Screenings

Management of Data

Robustness and types of service will vary

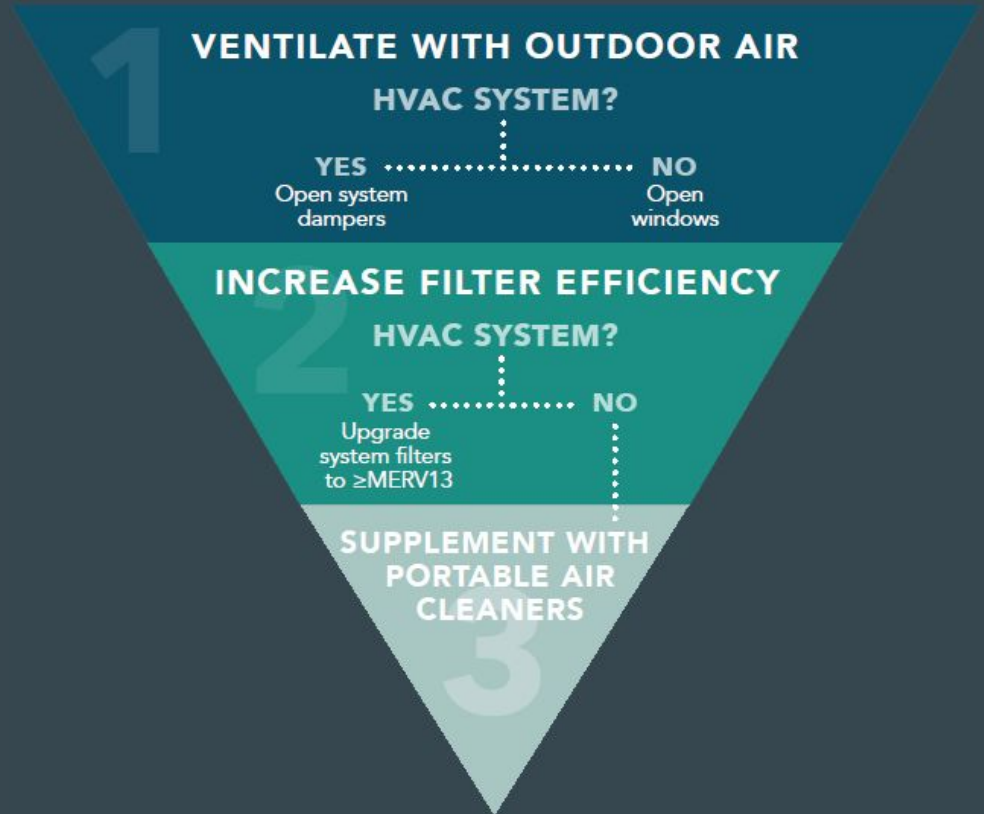
Labor discussions, legalities, and liabilities

# Facilities Considerations

# Indoor Air Quality

Prioritized strategies for improving indoor air quality during the pandemic:

1. Ventilation
2. Filtration
3. Supplemental Air Cleaning



# Ventilation

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- Bring fresh outside air inside the building
  - Open doors and windows
  - Install and use window fans
- Dependent on natural factors, such as direction of wind and air pressure
- Most school sites have operable windows
- Challenging on very hot or very cold days, or on days with bad air quality

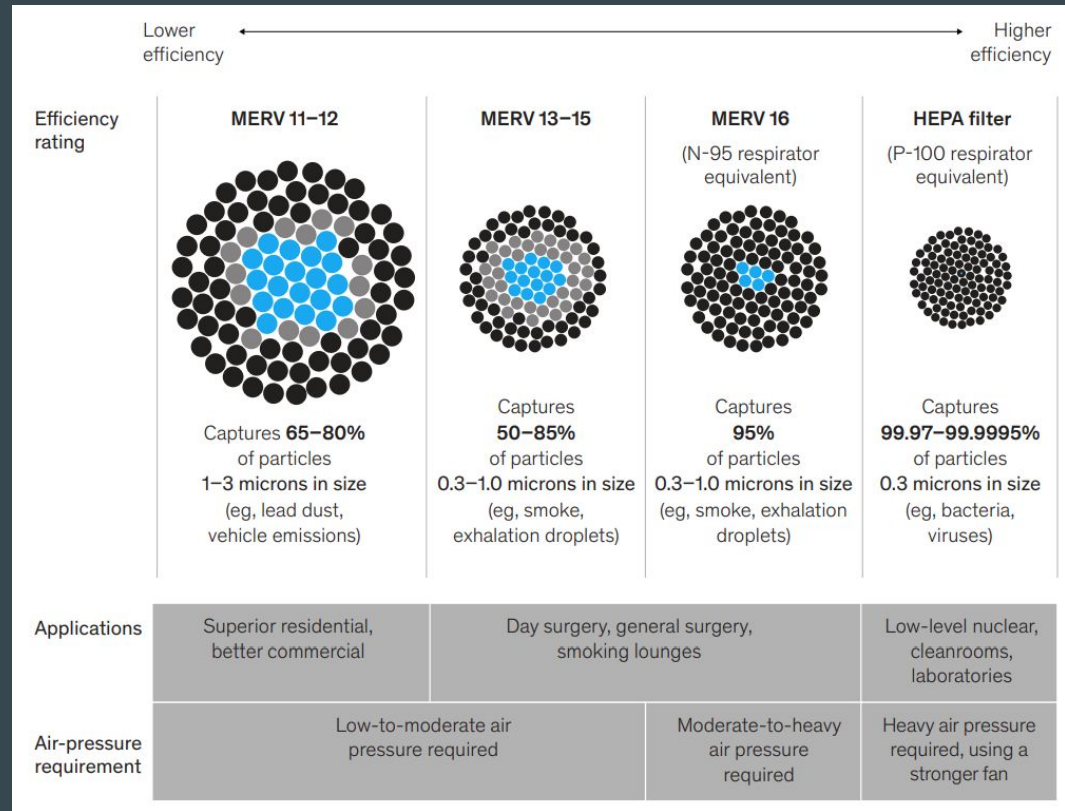
# Mechanical Ventilation

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- Bring outside air into the building with mechanical ventilation system
  - This mixing keeps room at a comfortable temperature
- District moving towards equipment that provides 4x air exchanges per hour
- Transitioning to programmable thermostats
  - Not possible at all school sites due to existing infrastructure
- Extend the before- and after-school operating hours of the mechanical systems & purge air before start & after-school
  - Increase in utility costs

# Air Filtration

- Removes particles from outside air, such as pollen
- Also filters recirculated air
- Switching from MERV 8 to MERV 13 filters (standard for hospitals)
- Low to moderate air pressure is needed to push air through MERV 13 filter
- Higher cost, currently short in supply



# Supplemental Air Cleaning

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- Generally used in healthcare environments
- Reduces exposure to airborne droplets
- Does not bring in fresh air
- Typically effective in smaller spaces
- Currently not being used in the District
  - May be used to supplement ventilation if schools are opened under the County waiver

# Status of Mechanical Systems at AUSD Elementary Schools

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- Wide range of mechanical systems
  - Rooftop systems
  - Inside classroom systems
  - Stand-alone units for portable classrooms
  - Stand-alone split units
- Love, Franklin, and Ruby can be actively monitored through an Energy Management System (EMS)

# Status of Mechanical Systems at AUSD Elementary Schools

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- Most permanent structures are capable of handling:
  - MERV-13 filter
  - 4x air changes per hour (ACH)
  - Air purge
- Portable classrooms are capable of approximately 3x air changes per hour
- Two-story original Otis Building has no mechanical unit

# Cleaning and Disinfecting

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## How will we properly clean and disinfect our schools?

- Follow CDC & EPA Guidance for Cleaning & Disinfecting Facilities
- Disinfect with EPA-registered List N solutions for use against Covid-19
- Apply disinfectants with electrostatic sprayers as the new standard of infection control
- Sufficient and capable staffing
- Develop policies, and educate/train staff on: worker protections; cleaning and disinfection protocols; and proper use of materials and equipment while complying with OSHA's standards.

# Entrance, Egress, and Movement Within the School

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- County-mandated informational signage posted on large A-Frames at school entrances
- Directional and distancing markers for indoor movement have been supplied to schools
- Stencils and paint for pathway and traffic signage on concrete and other outdoor spaces has also been supplied to each school
- Site administration to decide on the best traffic patterns for entrance, egress, and movement within each individual campus
- Installed plexiglass protective shields at offices and for facilitation of student assessment
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# Additional Considerations

# Physical Distancing

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With cohorts in place, it is permissible to relax the 6-feet recommendation if it ensures all/more students receive in-class instruction. (e.g. if reducing to 5 feet allows for more practicable cohort sizes).

***This is also in accordance with American Academy of Pediatrics guidance. Face coverings and cohort stability are higher priorities if they allow for more practical utilization of physical spaces to provide in-person instruction.***

# Face Coverings and Essential Protective Gear

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- All students in grades 3-6, and staff will be required to wear face coverings
- Face shield will be acceptable for students who cannot wear a face mask properly
- District to provide face covering if the student or employee does not have one
- Cloth face coverings are required (except when eating or drinking) for students (K and up) and all school staff, with the exception of students unable to wear them due to special circumstances such as a particular developmental or health diagnosis that would limit their ability to wear a face covering.

# Health Screenings for Students and Staff

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- Students/families and staff are required to self-screen at home or before entering the building.
- Staff visually screen and temperature check symptomatic students (no contact thermometers purchased for every school).

# Healthy Hygiene Practices

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- Hand sanitizer available in every classroom, and other common areas, through touchless dispensers
- 80% of elementary classrooms have running sinks
- Multi-purpose wipes x2000 can clean hands and hard surfaces (backup for sanitizer and electrostatic cleaning)

# Protocols for Symptoms, Positive Diagnoses, or Exposure Concerns

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State and County guidance now exists for responses to students or staff who:

- Exhibit COVID-19 symptoms
- Confirm close contact with a confirmed COVID-19 case
- Have a confirmed COVID-19 infection themselves

# Protocol for Student or Staff Member Return After Having COVID-19

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## MUST MEET ALL THREE CRITERIA

- 1) Respiratory symptoms are improving
- 2) They have had no fever for 72 hours without the use of fever reducing medicines
- 3) At least 10 days have passed since illness onset.

# Constituent and Stakeholder Consultation

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- Broader survey of potentially impacted families
- Consult with relevant labor, community, and parent organizations, as applicable.
- Principals as managers of their own hybrid programs in waiver situation
- “Provide a list of the meetings and/or forums held to obtain input and the key highlights from these event that support your plan to re-open your schools”

# Questions and Direction