



Superintendent: Paul Miller

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March 1, 2021

Brynn Carrigan, Director
Kern County Public Health Department
Bakersfield, CA 93306-3302

Dear Ms. Carrigan,

Thank you for the opportunity to present Beardsley School District's Safety Plan. Beardsley School District is committed to opening our school sites in compliance with all federal, state, and local health professionals' guidelines and mandates. Beardsley is committed to full implementation of its Safety Plan and its District reopening Plan. We have a long and successful partnership with Kern County Public Health, and look forward to working as partners in a collaboration to open our schools safely by following all protocols and elements of our safety plan.

As part of this commitment, the District agrees to follow all protocols and mandates promulgated recently by Cal/OSHA, and adhere to the guidance of State and local health professionals. The district will operate in compliance with its safety plan, which is in alignment with the January 14, 2021, CA Department of Public Health Reopening for In-Person Instruction Framework, and the recent guidance from Cal/OSHA. We will continue to monitor all guidance from the CDC, CDPH, and KCPH.

Please find enclosed the following documents for your review:

- COVID-19 Specific Safety Review Request for Schools form
- CSP Plan, including the Check List
- District's Reopening Plan (DRP)
- Districts Board Approved Reopening Schedule, Phased

Beardsley School District has prepared for the reopening of its schools in accordance with all guidance from pertinent health professionals and agencies. We greatly appreciate your review and feedback on our plans.

Paul E. Miller

Superintendent, Beardsley School District

COVID-19 Specific Safety Review Request for Schools

Background:

On January 14, 2021, the California Department of Public Health, in partnership with stakeholders, updated the [K-12 Schools Guidance](#) to support school communities as they decide when and how to implement safe in-person instruction for the 2020-2021 school year. This document is rooted in the scientific evidence available to date and supports twin goals: safe and successful in-person instruction.

The goal of this safety review process is to consider the unique situations (described below) that, in light of the updated guidance, could either:

- Prevent the return of students to **safe** in-person instruction; or
- Lead to the return of students to distance learning who could otherwise be receiving in-person instruction in a **safe** environment.

The expectation is that in these situations there would be:

- Strong evidence (outlined in "Materials requested" section below) in the form of case data indicating that, for schools that are currently operating, COVID-19 in-school transmissions have been minimal or have not occurred; **and**
- High safety standards in place in all other aspects to ensure the safety of students and adults on the school campus; **and**
- A plan for ongoing safety monitoring.

CDPH anticipates that **local health officers** have been informed and **are in agreement with the request, as indicated by signing this form below.**

Definition: Schools and Local Educational Agencies (LEAs): As used throughout this document, refer to county offices of education or their equivalent, school districts, charter schools, and the governing authorities of private schools (including nonpublic nonsectarian schools).

Timing and Processing for Submission of Safety Review Request:

1. A Letter of Intent to Submit, accessible through the Schools Hub Technical Assistance portal, **must** be submitted and approved prior to submission of a full Safety Review Request. Letters of Intent should be submitted to K12SafetyReview@cdph.ca.gov. Responses regarding approval/denial of Letter of Intent will be sent no later than 24 hours after receipt.

Note: For schools/school district wishing to submit a Safety Review Request for situation #1 (outlined below), the Letter of Intent to Submit must be received by no later than February 17th, 2021 at 5pm PST.

2. For all Letters of Intent that are approved, a Safety Review Request Form and submission instructions will be sent to the Contact and email provided on the Letter of Intent.
3. This request may be submitted by any LEA operating in California. The submitter will have **ten business days** from the date the Safety Review Request form is emailed to submit the full Safety Review Request, including all necessary signatures, to K12SafetyReview@cdph.ca.gov.
4. The Safe Schools For All Team will have 7 business days from the date the Safety Review Request is submitted to approve, deny or request additional information.

General Information: Paul E. Miller, Superintendent Beardsley School District

Name of requesting School/School District: Beardsley School District

County or Jurisdiction of Local Health Department: Kern County

Current COVID-19 Case Rate for the Jurisdiction:

Date of case rate:

Specific reason for Safety Review Request- select all that apply and provide requested information:

- (1) For LEAs that were currently open and providing in-person instruction as of January 14, 2021, where it has been determined that, after making good-faith efforts pursuant to the K-12 Schools Guidance to meet the minimum student-to-student physical distancing guidelines in the Guidance, that meeting that minimum would require students being served through in-person instruction on January 14, 2021 to be served through distance learning.

NOTE: LEAs submitting a Review Request for this reason must submit this letter of intent no later than February 17th, 2021 at 5pm PST. These LEAs may continue to provide in-person instruction using the same student-to-student distancing between chairs as was in place with Local Health Department approval as of January 14th, while they await a Review Request determination from the State Team.

If the request is being made by an LEA on behalf of multiple schools with different physical distancing measures in place in different schools, please provide an answer for each school, or for each group of schools with the same physical distancing measures. These answers can be provided in a separate document, in which case please respond "See Attached" in the fields below."

What are the student-to-student physical distancing measures as of January 14th; and how is physical distancing being measured (nose to nose, back of chair to back of chair, etc)?

Under the current physical distancing measures, what is the maximum number of students and staff in a classroom?

If only one school is submitting this review request: What percentage of students will be affected if, after making a good faith effort to meet the 6 feet recommendation per the K-12 Schools Guidance (p. 21), the school moves to a minimum 4-foot distancing rule?

For district application: What percentage of schools will be affected if, after making a good faith effort to meet the 6 feet recommendation per the K-12 Schools Guidance (p. 21), the district moves to a minimum 4-foot distancing rule?

Under the minimum 4 feet distancing rule, what is the estimated maximum number of students who would be in the classroom?

Please provide information on the high safety standards in all other aspects outlined in the K-12 Schools Guidance that are currently in place or that will be employed to compensate for the shorter distance and ensure the safety of the school staff and students.

Please provide a plan for ongoing safety monitoring and reporting to CDPH using an asymptomatic testing regimen while the school has in place physical distancing between students of less than 4 feet.

☐ (2) LEAs that, when the January 14th K-12 Schools Guidance was issued, were in the active process of bringing back additional students for in-person instruction as part of a phased-in reopening process consistent with being considered “open” under the July 17th schools guidance, but never offered all students in at least one grade the option to return for in-person instruction for at least part of the school week while the county was in the Red Tier or lower, and therefore do not meet the revised definition of “open” set forth in the K-12 Schools Guidance issued on January 14, 2021.

NOTE: LEAs submitting a Review Request for this reason must continue to comply with the January 14th K-12 Schools Guidance pending a determination on the Review Request from the State Team.

If the request is being made by an LEA on behalf of multiple schools with different phased in re-opening plans in place in different schools, please provide an answer for each school, or for each group of schools with the same phased-in re-opening plan. These answers can be provided in a separate document, in which case please respond "See Attached" in the fields below.

Number and percentage of students in each grade level that were receiving in-person instruction as of January 14, 2021:

What was the phased reopening plan, by grade level, that was paused on January 14, 2021, due to the issuance of the K-12 Guidance?

Please provide a plan for an asymptomatic testing regimen, with results reported to CDPH, while the LEA continues to offer in-person instruction and until the LEA has offered in-person instruction to at least one grade, including an additional 3 weeks of testing after the LEA has offered in-person instruction to at least one grade.

Materials required

1. The local educational agency's COVID-19 Safety Plan (see [Guidance](#) for description)
2. School-based contact tracing and case investigation data including the following (please work with the local health department as needed to obtain these data):
 - a. The beginning and ending dates for which the information is provided.
 - b. The criteria used by the local health department to conduct contact tracing and case investigation for school-based cases.
 - c. Criteria used by the local health department to ask close contacts to undergo testing after exposure (e.g., only if symptomatic, or within a set window of time after exposure).
 - d. The number of estimated cases across the schools being reviewed, during the reported time period, that were on a school campus during their infectious period.
 - e. The number of these estimated cases (from d.) that appear to have been associated with any on-site transmission, and how many in-school secondary cases occurred in association with the transmission.
 - f. Of the potential on-site transmissions, the number that were staff to staff transmission, student to student transmission, student to staff transmission, and staff to student transmission.
 - g. Any remediating actions taken by the school to prevent subsequent transmission.
 - h. The number of outbreaks (three or more cases that are epidemiologically linked) in the school community with in-school transmission, and any remediating actions taken by the school to prevent subsequent outbreaks.

And:

3. Data on any asymptomatic testing results for the schools or district during the period of data provided. **Note: We acknowledge that some schools may not have data readily available regarding asymptomatic testing or have not stood up an asymptomatic testing program. If that is the case, please write NA.**

If data is available, please include:

- a. The number of students and staff on site for in-person instruction during the data reporting period (provide dates);
- b. The number of total tests performed in the school or LEA community for those in "a" above (those on site for in-person instruction);
- c. Of these, the number of tests performed that were positive

District/County Superintendent, Charter School Administrator, or Head of School Attestation:

I _____ hereby attest that I am duly authorized to sign and act on behalf of _____. I certify that the information provided in the school safety review request is true, accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge.

Signature:

Date of attestation:

Local Health Officer Review:

Approved

Not approved

Signature: *Elizabeth King, REHS*

Date: *3/1/2021*

Safe Schools for All Team Determination

Approved

Not approved

Date of Determination:

Reason for rejection (for internal use only)

- inadequate evidence of prior safe operations
- inadequate asymptomatic testing plan for ongoing monitoring moving forward
- COVID-19 Safety plan without strong enhancements of other safety layers

Question 1: Number and percentage of students in each grade level that were receiving in person instruction as of January 14, 2021?

The District had a board approved schedule to open all grade levels over a period of weeks after Kern County entered the Red Tier. The first phase of the reopening was implemented, which included all grade levels of high risk students (grades Kindergarten through 8th Grade). The district then paused reopening based on the level of COVID-19 spread in the community, which was fully supported by Kern County Public Health. The level of spread spiked in the weeks after the District's reopening, and leading up to January 14, 2021. The "adjusted case rate" (ACR) levels per 100,000 were as follows:

November 2(Initial Phase of District Reopening):	28.2/100,000
December 1:	50.46/100,000
December 22:	67.69/100,000
January 5:	66.0/100,000
January 12:	82.1/100,000
January 19:	85.0/100,000

The numbers above show the accelerating numbers experienced in Kern County, and the reason for a pause in the District's board approved full reopening plan. The pause was consistent with the District's reopening plan to focus on taking action consistent with the health and safety of the District's students and staff. Due to the accelerating COVID-19 community rates, the District concluded that it was not safe to continue phasing in the approved reopening plan even though all CDPH, CDC and other safety guidance and protocols were being followed. Due to the safety pause, the District had zero (0) students on campus on January 14,

2021, despite having all grade levels open in the district in our first phase of high risk students comprised of 11 classrooms.

Question 2: What was the phased reopening plan, by grade level, that was paused on January 14, 2021, due to the issuance of the K-12 Guidance?

The district's board approved phased reopening plan was as follows:

November 2, 2020:	All grade levels of High risk students (SDC)
January 11, 2021	TK/Kindergarten classes, all four school sites
January 19, 2021	1 st and 7 th grades, all school sites
January 25, 2021	2 nd and 6 th Grades, all school sites
February 1, 2021	3 rd and 4 th grades, all school sites
February 9, 2021	5 th and 6 th grades, all school sites

The District elected, in the first phase, to bring back the highest risk students. The County of Kern was in the Red Tier at the time, and the Board of Trustees felt it was most important to mitigate the learning loss of highest risk students across all school sites and grade levels. It was the intent of the Board to continue with the board approved plan, but as mentioned above, the level of COVID-19 spread became unsafe and presented an unacceptable risk to our students and families, and so the district paused and had not returned any students to campus prior to the issuance of the January 14, 2021 guidance. The District's reopening schedule, along with our District wide Reopening Plan (DRP) were posted for public view on our web site, and filed with the Kern County Superintendent of Schools and Kern County Public Health. A copy of the DRP is provided along with this request in addition to the board resolution adopting the DRP, the Notice of Intent to Reopen for In Person Instruction, and the Reopening Schedule which were all adopted at the October 12, 2020 meeting of the Board of Trustees (Exhibit "A"). The District also has its board approved COVID -19 Safety Plan (CSP) (Exhibit "B") submitted to the appropriate agencies and posted to its website as described in the January 14 guidance promulgated by the CDPH. The District's COVID Prevention Plan brings it

in line with the most recently released Cal/OSHA Emergency Temporary Standards. In short, without the pause, the district's reopening plan would have been fully executed on February 9, 2021.

Please provide a plan for asymptomatic testing regimen, with results reported to CDPH, while the LEA continues to offer in-person instruction and until the LEA has offered in-person instruction to at least one grade, including an additional 3 weeks of testing after the LEA has offered in-person instruction to at least one grade.

The district has worked in conjunction with Kern County Superintendent of Schools in the planning phase of our surveillance and response testing programs, and will follow all protocol and guidance from local and state health professionals, as well as recent CAL/OSHA guidelines.

The district's vendor for both its asymptomatic testing and response testing programs is Valencia Branch Laboratory. The district has a detailed schedule and plan for staff testing that includes **five** different sites in the school district, one at all four school sites as well as at the district office. The district's initial roll out of the testing is occurring currently in our district office testing center. The district's asymptomatic testing plan will follow the appropriate testing cadence from the Safe Schools for All Plan based on the applicable case rate within the county. The district's response testing will comply with CAL/OSHA requirements. Each of our school sites is set up to administer asymptomatic testing to staff as in accordance with the Safe Schools for All Plan.. This includes:

- Self-administered test kits at each of our five sites;
- a trained proctor to observe and manage the testing process;
- a lap top at each site to record to memorialize all testing records;
- District shipping of completed test kits to Valencia Branch Labs location for processing.

The district also has two full time Registered Nurses on staff to coordinate all testing efforts, as well as two dedicated district office employees who coordinate the testing process.

Materials Required:

1. Attached are the District's District Reopening Plan (DRP), and the District's COVID-Safety Plan (CSP).

2. A. November 2nd through December 1st
 - B. The Kern County Public Health's contact tracing and case investigations for school based cases is as follows:
 1. Positive cases are interviewed to identify the infectious period, and to determine any close contacts.
 2. Close contacts are contacted by their tracing team to provide guidance on quarantine and testing.
 3. Schools submit student and staff cases and exposures to the school sites in question to monitor for outbreaks and on-going transmission(s).
 - C. Criteria used by Kern County Public Health to ask close contacts to undergo testing after exposure (e.g. only if symptomatic, or within a set window of time after exposure):
 1. Asymptomatic-close contacts are recommended testing 5-7 days following the most recent contact with a positive;
 2. Symptomatic close contacts are recommended for immediate testing;
 3. Close contacts who test negative must still complete the required quarantine as defined by CDHP Guidance;
 4. Contacts who test positive are required to isolate until at least 10 days have passed since symptom onset; and at least 24 hours have passed since resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications, and other symptoms have improved.
 5. If asymptomatic, cases should be isolated for 10 days after the specimen collection date of their positive test.
 - D. 7 Positive Cases during window delineated above in A.

- E. The number that appear to have been “On Site” Transmission is Two. Zero in school secondary cases occurred in association with the transmission.
- F. Staff to Staff only, Two.
- G. The district conducted contact tracing, and quarantined the relevant staff members for the required 14 day period. The effected work areas were “deep cleaned” as per CDC, CDPH, and Kern County Public Health protocols and recommendations.
- H. The district had zero outbreaks. Outbreaks being defined as three positive cases within 14 days in the same work site.

3. N/A