

2022-2023 COVID-19 Safety Plan/School Guidance Checklist

REVISED: August 29, 2022

Name of Local Educational Agency or Equivalent:

Grow Public Schools (Grow Academy Arvin, Grow Academy Shafter)

Number of Schools: 2

Enrollment: 1614

Superintendent (or equivalent) Name: Mike Romero (Chief Operating Officer)

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Address: 5080 California Ave., Ste. 100, Bakersfield, CA 93309

Grade levels: UPK, K, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th

Date of Proposed Reopening: Currently open. Re-opened on October 29th,
2020

County: Kern

Current Tier: N/A as tier system expired on June 15th

Type of LEA: Public Charter School

Stable Group Structures (if/where applicable): How students will be kept in small, stable, groups with fixed membership that stay together for all activities (e.g. instruction, lunch, recess) and minimize/avoid contact with other groups or individuals who are not part of the cohort.

- Students in grades K-8 will attend schools 5 days per week as stable groups are not a requirement for a full reopening. However, Grow Public Schools will continue to evaluate, with guidance and consultation from the local public health department, if stable groups are a necessary measure in the event of an outbreak.
- In the classroom, students will maintain as much physical distance as practicable to allow for a full in-person reopening of the school.
- Face coverings (disposable masks, reusable masks, and/or face shields) will be strongly recommended indoors for students while indoors.

Entrance, Egress, and Movement within the School: How movement of students, staff, and parents will be managed to decrease chances of a close contact and/or mixing of cohorts.

As mentioned above, stable groups are not a requirement for a full reopening. However, GPS will implement the below measures to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

- Primary and supporting school entrances are identified and staffed with trained COVID Liaisons and other support staff to administer health screenings (if applicable due to outbreak) to stakeholders.
- Screenings:
 - All students and staff will participate in daily home screenings to assess for COVID-related symptoms before arriving on campus.
- Primary entrances are to be used by all students, staff, and most vendors. Alternative entrances are exclusively used by identified vendors and isolated staff departments.
- Temperatures may be taken upon entrance to the school.
- Face coverings will be strongly recommended for students, staff, and families at the time of pick-up and drop-off.
- If a student becomes ill or sustains an injury, the teacher will telephone the school nurse to triage over the phone in order to avoid congestion in the school nurse's office and waiting area.

Based on the health risk and needs, the school nurse will coordinate student movement related to the number of students allowed in the nurse's office, waiting area, and the isolation room while sustaining physical distancing

Face Coverings and Other Essential Protective Gear: How CDPH's face covering recommendations will be maintained for staff and students.

- Face coverings will be strongly recommended for students, staff, and families while indoors.
- Facial coverings, as well as N95 masks, will be provided by the school should someone request one. Safety glasses and gloves are also optional for usage.
- If a student or staff member chooses to wear a face covering they may bring a homemade face covering as long as it meets standards from the CDPH.
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- Teachers and support staff may also choose to wear a face shield with a drape, or a Z-Shield that anchors from the bottom of the shield, for pedagogical purposes only and physical distance must be maintained.
- Face shields (along with proper physical distancing) are also available for:
 - Students/staff with a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability that prevents wearing a face covering. This includes persons with a medical condition for whom wearing a face covering could obstruct breathing or who are unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove a face covering without assistance.
 - Students/staff who are hearing impaired, or communicating with a person who is hearing impaired, where the ability to see the mouth is essential for communication.
 - Students/staff for whom wearing a face covering would create a risk to the person related to their work, as determined by local, state, or federal regulators or workplace safety guidelines.
- If a staff member is required to wear a face covering due to local or state health department directive (isolated outbreak, return from COVID leave, etc.), but is unable to use the face mask or the face shield, HR will engage in the interactive process and direct

stakeholders to consult with their primary medical provider to identify the correct PPE for their condition.

- Approximately 2 months supply of face coverings are maintained on campus or at the home office at all times.

Health Screenings for Students and Staff: How students and staff will be screened for symptoms of COVID-19 and how ill students or staff will be separated from others and sent home immediately.

- Employees are directed to daily self-monitor and students' parents/guardians are directed to daily monitor their student's health for symptoms of COVID-19 before coming to campus.
- Following guidance from the CDPH, parents and employees will be provided with a list of COVID symptoms and be instructed to stay home if experiencing symptoms or have come in contact with a confirmed or suspected case of COVID. Parents are responsible for screening their student(s) each morning before drop-off. Employees are responsible for self-screening before reporting to campus.
- If an employee or student develops, COVID-19 related symptoms while on campus, the employee or student will be evaluated by the school nurse and monitored in the medical room where distancing will be maintained as practicable.
 - Medical room (medical trailer) serves as the primary isolation area where up to 3-4 individuals can be monitored by site nurse while maintaining physical distance. The mobile units will be placed on the black top for easy access for our nurses and for families to pick up their students without entering the front office.
 - GA Arvin: medical room is located on the basketball court on the east side of campus.
 - GA Shafter: medical room is located on the basketball court on the west side of campus.
- Employees exhibiting symptoms will be directed to go home and contact the COVID-19 Response Lead (Eric Mendez) for further instructions. Parents/emergency contacts of students exhibiting symptoms will be called for immediate pick up. A follow up by the school nurse will also be scheduled.

Healthy Hygiene Practices: The availability of handwashing stations and hand sanitizer, and how their use will be promoted and incorporated into routines.

- In accordance with CDPH and Cal/OSHA guidance and in consultation with local public health officials, the school provides opportunities for students and staff to meet handwashing frequency guidance. Signage for proper hand washing is placed in all restrooms.
- The school ensures sufficient access to handwashing and sanitizer stations throughout the school, utilizing additional stand-alone handwashing stations and fragrance-free hand sanitizer (with a minimum of 60 percent alcohol), and supervised at or near all workstations. Children under age nine may only use hand sanitizer under adult supervision.
- Each classroom, main offices, screening stations, nurse's office, and medical room are stocked with hand sanitizer.
- Mobile hand sanitizing stations are also placed throughout the campus as needed.

Identification and Tracing of Contacts: Actions that staff will take when there is a confirmed case. Confirm that the school(s) have designated staff to support contact tracing, such as creation and submission of lists of exposed students and staff to the local health department and notification of exposed persons. Each school must designate a person for the local health department to contact about COVID-19.

- All known positive cases and potential exposures of staff and students are to be reported directly to the COVID-19 Response Lead (Eric Mendez). The coordinator will initiate the intake process with the employee to identify potential COVID exposure, symptoms, and diagnosis during the employee's recent work history, as well as assess employee's compliance related to guidance from the CDC, the Department of Public Health, and organization policies. In the event, a student is believed to test positive or has been exposed to a positive case, the school nurses (Karmen Molina [GA Arvin] and Bonnie Ramos [GA Shafter], under the guidance of the coordinator) would conduct the intake process with the student's parents.
- Along with working closely with the administration team, the information is used to assess guidance towards other students and staff members potential exposure to COVID-19 and track occurrences in the school sites. Students and/or staff members found to be potentially exposed are contacted directly to further

assess their exposure and determine next steps such as self-monitor for symptoms, and/or request stakeholder to be medically evaluated or tested.

- Based on the occurrence, a notification of potential exposure is communicated to impacted stakeholders. The coordinator reports the positive case to the Kern County Department of Public Health (KCDPH), should KCDPH not contact the school or stakeholder first.

Physical Distancing: How space and routines will be arranged to allow for physical distancing of students and staff.

- Student distancing - Maximum physical distancing as much as possible, but as to not prevent a full reopen of in-person instruction.
- Staff distancing - maximum physical distancing as much as possible, but as to not prevent a full reopen of in-person instruction.
- Lunch areas and spacing are identified and modified to safely allow for maximum distancing as much as possible as well as other K-12 school prevention strategies (i.e., air purifiers and air ventilation improvements).
- Physical measures such as markers (i.e. stickers and tape) on the floor to identify walkways and encourage physical distancing may be implemented as safeguard for staff and students.
- All classrooms and offices where students may be present will be equipped with air purification units.
- All unnecessary furniture in the classrooms may be temporarily stored to allow for maximum space in each classroom.

Staff Training and Family Education: How staff will be trained and families will be educated on the application and enforcement of the plan.

- The Human Resources (HR) department has and continues to train staff routinely on how to effectively mitigate the transmission of COVID-19 by being trained in proper handwashing, maximum physical distancing, correct usage/donning/doffing of PPE (i.e., facial coverings and gloves), and daily self-monitoring for COVID-related symptoms. HR also trains staff on when to communicate to the COVID-19 Response Lead directly in the event of a positive case and/or potential exposure.
- Any employee observed not adhering to the protocols will undergo a documented re-training to ensure all COVID protocols are understood.

- The school educates families by providing a parent resource on information and symptoms of COVID-19, and the resource details processes in place to respond to a COVID-related matter. The parent resource sets forward expectations the school has of parents regarding:
 - Communicating to the school in the event the child test positive or is exposed to a positive case in the home or in a non-household occurrence
 - Immediate pick-up if child develops symptoms in school
 - Modeling mitigating behaviors in the home and speaking to the child about refraining from sharing food, drinks, or any school supplies with other students
 - Keeping the child home if the child presents with symptoms during the daily monitoring before heading to school

Testing of Staff: How school officials will ensure that students and staff who have symptoms of COVID-19 or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 will be rapidly tested, or cleared by a doctor, and what instructions they will be given while waiting for test results.

- Consistent with CDPH Guidance, the Charter School will implement weekly testing for employees who are unvaccinated, or who have not provided proof of full vaccination status.
- All staff regardless of vaccination status may also be tested upon return from school breaks (ie, fall break, winter break, spring break, etc.).
- Consistent with CDPH Guidance, the GPS may also implement response testing of all staff as directed by the Kern County Department of Public Health (“DPH”) as a result of an identified outbreak.
- The Charter School will confirm that a test was taken and report positive test results to DPH, unless DPH has already made direct contact with the staff member.
 - Following the Charter School’s Policy Prohibiting Unlawful Harassment, Discrimination, and Retaliation, the Charter School cannot retaliate against an employee for disclosure of a positive test, diagnosis or order to self-quarantine or isolate. Any employee who believes that the Charter School has violated this policy may file a complaint under the Charter School’s Uniform Complaint Procedures.
 - The Charter School must maintain confidentiality of test results, other than reporting the results to DPH. All medical information about any employee must be stored separately

from the employee's personnel file in order to limit access to this confidential information.

Testing of Students: How school officials will ensure that students who have symptoms of COVID-19 or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 will be rapidly tested and what instructions they will be given while waiting for test results.

- If a family reports that a student exhibits symptoms of COVID-19, the student and family members are encouraged to be tested for COVID-19 before returning to the school facility.
- Tests will be offered to students at no charge.

Identification and Reporting of Cases:

Grow Public Schools shall report the following information:

- The full name, address, telephone number, and date of birth of the individual who tested positive;
- The date the individual tested positive, the school(s) at which the individual was present on-site within the 48 hours preceding the positive test if asymptomatic or 48 hours preceding onset of symptoms, and the date the individual was last on-site at any relevant school(s);
- Any contacts directed to quarantine as a result of the school's contact tracing.
- The full name, email, and telephone number of the person making the report.
- This information shall be reported to the local health officer within twenty-four hours from the time an individual within the local educational agency or private school is first made aware of a new case.
- This reporting shall continue until this directive is modified or rescinded.

Communication Plans: How the superintendent, or designee, will communicate with students, staff, and parents about cases and exposures at the school, consistent with privacy requirements such as FERPA and HIPAA.

- Assessing the occurrence of the positive case and identifying potential stakeholder exposures to COVID-19 (i.e., student, staff, vendors, etc.), a

notification of potential exposure will be sent to the impacted stakeholders as soon as the intake process has been completed and practical. The notification will:

- Identify the type of stakeholder who tested positive (i.e. student, employee, or vendor),
- The last day said stakeholder was on campus,
- An assessment of compliance of the guidance from the CDC, California Department of Public Health, and local authorities,
- Contact information if the stakeholder(s) should have any questions.
- The COVID Response Lead (Eric Mendez Villanueva) will send the notification to all staff via email.
- The school nurses (Karmen Molina and Bonnie Ramos) or school principals (Hurshel Williams and Brook Webb) will send the notification to all families via email or "Parent Square".
- The CEO (Casey Yeazel) and COO (Mike Romero) will respond to any media inquiries.

Consultation: N/A - School is currently open.

Additional Resources:

Safe schools for all HUB

<https://schools.covid19.ca.gov/>

Guidance for the use of face masks

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/guidance-for-face-coverings.aspx>

COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools in California, 2021-22 School Year

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/K-12-Guidance-2021-22-School-Year.aspx>