

Waiver Criteria

1. Consultation

Labor Organization

Name of Organization and Date consulted: Columbine Teacher's Association October 9, 2020. All ten teachers unanimously voted to return to school on November 5th if our waiver is approved or the state allows us to return.

Columbine doesn't have a classified union. All 9 of our classified staff selected to return to school. They were polled during week of October 5th.

All 20 District employees voted to return to work when we are allowed.

Columbine has worked closely with our stakeholders on plans to reopen. School site council meetings on June 8th and July 16th had us planning to open in August but this was foiled by Tulare County's status on the monitoring list. Board Meetings covering COVID response preparation occurred on March 30, April 28, May 19, June 10, July 8 and August 12. A staff meeting on September 29 featured a discussion about returning to school. The meeting was on Zoom. Consultation with parents and staff have taken place with surveys, phone calls, and Zoom meetings. 110 students in our TK-6 classes are ready to return to school. 39 students in the above-mentioned grades will continue with a Zoom education.

An October 13, 2020 Zoom School Site Council meeting discussed, reviewed, updated, and approved Columbine School's opening procedures. The council also approved our waiver for grades TK-6 to have in class instruction. Twenty-nine parents and staff participated in the council meeting. Columbine's projected open date is November 5, 2020. The Columbine School Board reviewed and approved our "School Opening Procedures" and our waiver for grades Tk-6 to return to school on October 14, 2020.

2. Elementary School Reopen Plan

Cleaning and Disinfection: How shared surfaces will be regularly cleaned and disinfected and plans to minimize shared items.

Columbine will be sanitized on a daily basis. The custodian will use a fogger once a week and approved sanitizers. Supplies will be given to each student and won't be shared.

Outdoor equipment such as slides, swings, and tetherballs are being used. Columbine will continue with 2 recesses to reduce the number of students on the yard at one time.

Students will wear masks on the bus. One window on each side of the bus will be open to provide ventilation. Family members may sit next to each other. The bus will be fogged at the end of the day.

Cohorting:

Columbine will keep each class self-contained during the school day. They will enter by the office gates and traffic will flow in one direction. Temperature reading, symptoms check, and hand sanitizing will occur for all students. Two morning recesses will occur at different times. Lunches will be staggered with less students sitting at a table. Kindergarten and TK lunches will be take-home.

Entrance, Egress, and Movement at School

Students will enter campus thru the gates by the office. They will be exiting a family vehicle or the bus. The yard duty teacher may ask students to remain in their cars if the area is crowded. Students will exit Columbine from the gates by the office building. There will be two different dismissal times for 1-3 and 4-8 grades. TK/Kindergarten gives Columbine a third dismissal time.

Face Coverings

Face coverings are required for all students. We will provide a mask for each child and have extras if someone forgets their mask. The bus driver will have extra masks on the bus too. A face shield without a drape may be worn in addition to a mask. Individuals with medical exemptions for wearing a mask, shall wear a face shield with a drape if it is medically feasible. Face covering is required for all staff too. They can wear a mask or a face shield with a drape. We are providing a mask and or a face shield with a drape for all staff. Face covering should be worn indoors except when eating. An outside exception is when students are physically exerting themselves. An example would be running.

Health Screenings for Students and Staff:

Each student will be checked for fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headaches, new loss of hearing or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, and or diarrhea as they enter campus or the school bus. Temperatures students will be taken with a non-touch thermometer. Staff will monitor their symptoms in the morning either before coming to school or arrival. Individuals with one or more of these symptoms will be sent home. Parents who are dropping off students at the bus or school shall wait until the child's symptom check and temperature has been taken. Individuals with anyone of the above 11 COVID symptoms will be told to return to their vehicle and go to the doctor.

Students who develop fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headaches, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny

nose, nausea or vomiting, and or diarrhea during the day will be sent to the quarantine tent by their teacher or other staff member that recognizes the health concern. The nurse will ask the following questions, "Any of the above listed symptoms? Any known exposure to COVID 19? Have you or anyone in you're the home recently tested for COVID-19 and are waiting for results? She will be donning full PPE-N95 or surgical mask/face shield, disposable gown, and gloves. The nurse will state each of the symptoms in her questioning. Columbine has an adequate supply of N95 mask and our supplier has them on hand. We also have a good supply of surgical masks if a need arises.

Student Quarantine

Students who are exposed and not tested without an alternate doctor's explanation must remain home for 10 days.

For unvaccinated students with lower risk exposure at school where masks were worn correctly. Option 1: Stay in class. Students may stay in school if they remain symptom free and get a negative test result. They must test twice - once right away and test again on or after day 5. They must continue to wear a mask and no extracurricular activities during 7- day quarantine.

For exposures outside of school or without masks.

Option 2: Stay home for 7 days. May return on day 8 if no symptoms and they test negative once on / after day 5.

Option 3: Stay home 10 days without a test. May return on day 11 after exposure if no symptoms.

Fully vaccinated students do not need to quarantine if he / she has no symptoms. A COVID test between 3-5 days after exposure is recommended. The child should continue to wear a mask, be checked for symptoms, and avoid higher risk situations for 14 days after exposure. If symptoms develop, stay at home. Also, get tested for COVID.

Modified quarantine is only available for students who were wearing a mask, have been tested, and are not showing symptoms.

A person without symptoms will use the test date as the first day of isolation. Some people take a longer time to recover and may need a doctor's note to return. Their personal health history is a key factor in these situations. Retesting is no longer recommended. Columbine will use time, symptoms –based criteria, a doctor's note, public health clearance, or school nurse clearance. Individuals who continue close contact with the infected person, change their quarantine starting date each day additional close contact happens.

When a student or staff is quarantined for high-risk exposure, they can return after 14 days. All high-risk contacts should be tested. Individuals with symptoms should be tested ASAP.

Healthy Hygiene Practices

Drinking faucets can be used. Students will have the opportunity to refill drinking cups. Bathroom usage will be limited to 2 students at a time. Students may bring their own bottled water and store it at their desks. Each class will have hand sanitizers by its entrance and sanitizer will be in the office, kitchen, and school entrance and exit. Students will be taught the correct way to wash their hands stressing scrubbing for 20 seconds. Teachers will provide instruction on safety measures focusing on proper handwashing and how to put on a face mask.

Identification of Tracing of Contacts:

Tim Jones, Superintendent, Principal will immediately notify the Tulare County Public Health Liaison when someone at Columbine has the COVID. He will also contact the school nurse and send the required information to Keenan within 3 days. Mr. Jones will serve as the contact tracer and work in conjunction with the TCHSA nurse. If Mr. Jones isn't available to serve as the tracer, then Nurse Jamie will serve in this capacity. These officials will decide upon a course of action for Columbine. Examples are sending a class back to Zoom or closing down the entire school. The action taken will depend on what the tracer unveils. Mr. Jones will notify all families and employees who may be affected by the exposure after all contact tracing is completed.

Steps for Contact Tracing:

1. Assess the risk – identify closes contacts, create a list, and take action.
2. Close contact – someone who was within 6 feet of the individual for 15 minutes or longer cumulatively.
3. Identify exposure locations – classroom? Bus? School entrance? Exit? Common area?
4. Begin the facility contact list assessment spreadsheet – risk level I high or low? Look at time and distance? PPE/Description
 - a. High risk situation – 14 – day quarantine
 - b. Low risk – remain in school and monitor symptoms
5. Take action
 - a. Confirmed positive – isolate
 - b. High risk – quarantine
 - c. Low risk – monitor symptoms

Make sure all high-risk contacts are tested for COVID at the end of the 14-day quarantine.

Physical Distancing

Social distancing is no longer required. Students won't be allowed to bunch up but may sit at a table for small groups.

Staff will not congregate in big groups and /or in close quarters.

The secretary's office has received two safety precautions. Two open spaces are now closed by a door and a plastic divider. A limited amount of people will be allowed in the office at a time.

Staff Training and Family Education

All staff were trained prior to the start of the school year. Each staff completed the COVID training thru Keenan and Associates and received additional training from the school nurse. Staff training on masks, handwashing, and other safety measures and requirements occurred on August 11, 2021. Board and Site Council approved Opening guidelines have been sent to families by One Call Now, provided at a board and school site council meetings, and handed out at school.

Testing of Students and Staff:

Any staff or student who exhibits fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, and or diarrhea or has been exposed to COVID will be sent home. Students won't be tested unless they are exposed or have symptoms. If they are exposed at school, we will provide a test with parent permission. Students exposed outside of school will get tested on their own or wait at home the required days. They will have to meet requirements for symptoms to return to school.

Staff exposed at school will be tested by our trained staff member. Staff exposed outside of school need to get tested, wait, and meet the return to school requirements.

Starting October 15th, all workers at Columbine will either be fully vaccinated and provide proof of full vaccination or be tested once a week. 7th and 8th graders will need to be vaccinated starting July 1, 2021. We will honor exemptions that have been properly approved. Exempted students will need to follow any testing requirements. Vaccinated staff don't need to be COVID tested unless they have symptoms. Unvaccinated staff will be tested weekly. All vaccinated staff will provide proof of their vaccinations. School board members will provide proof of full vaccination or meet the testing requirements. Volunteers won't be allowed until we receive more clarifications.

Sample sites for test to receive testing

Pixley Medical Clinic 205 E. Davis Pixley, CA 93256

Tipton Medical Clinic 565 N. Thompson Rd. Tipton, CA 93272

Visalia Healthwise Medical Clinic 404 S. Demaree St., Building A, Visalia, CA 93277

Website for Testing Sites

<https://covid19.tularecounty.ca.gov/covid-19-testing-sites/>

Triggers for Closing

Columbine may take some school days off if the numbers are too high or too big of a staffing shortage occurs. Columbine may consult with TCHSA. The facility will be cleaned and

disinfected during the closure. Columbine may consult the health department and get the results of their investigation. School will return when the school board decides that it is safe.

Communication Plans:

The Superintendent / Principal will notify all parents in a letter explaining COVID cases and exposure. Names of the involved won't be released. Columbine will continue to use One Call Now to communicate with parents. Confidentiality will be emphasized.

Additional comments:

Signage is posted at the entrance and exit. Sanitizer stations are in all classrooms, kitchen, cafeteria, at entrances and exits to the campus, and office. Visitors will be limited. They will stay in their vehicle when possible. Parents need to stay in their vehicle when picking up and dropping off work for sick students.

We have an adequate supply of hand sanitizers.

All thermometers used at Columbine will be non-touch.

Kindergarteners / TK will do take-home lunches. Meal preparers will wear gloves and a mask. Disposable trays are used, cold food is wrapped in plastic, and hot food is in foil. The lunch schedule will be spread out so there are less students in the cafeteria.

Sports have returned. We will try to social distance from the other schools as much as possible. We will monitor players for symptoms on all game days. The bus driver will ensure students wear a mask on the bus and the bus has at least one open window on each side.

Cafeteria lunch and recesses will be staggered, so there will be less students are on the yard. Masks will be worn at recess except for when the students are doing physically exerting activities such as running. A protective divider has been added to the cafeteria clerk's workstation.