

QUESTIONS FROM EMPLOYEE TOWN HALL

The following is a list of questions and responses from the Employee Town Hall held on March 23, 2021. Responses are based upon current knowledge and guidance as of this date. Information contained in responses to questions is subject to change.

Question	Response
Who will teach the students that are doing virtual classes vs. in person? Is the student teacher going to teach both simultaneously?	This will be determined through the update to the school reopening framework. Ideally, students would remain with their current teachers whether participating in hybrid/in-person learning or distance learning.
Will students/families be allowed to change their preference once we return?	The reopening school parent survey indicates parents may request to change their student(s) from hybrid/in-person learning to distance learning, but may not be able to request a change from distance learning to hybrid/in-person learning.
If a student catches COVID-19 in my classroom, or it is alleged that they did, can their parents sue me? Who has the liability if a student catches COVID at school?	Generally speaking, employees are protected from liability from the District for their work with the scope of their employment. The District has a duty to defend and indemnify employees for acts or omissions within the scope of their employment.
I thought the March 8 vaccine clinic was the Moderna Vaccine	The slide in the employee town hall incorrectly indicated that the vaccine administered on March 8 was the Pfizer vaccine. It was in fact the Moderna vaccine.
Did those students in cohorts follow through with keeping their masks on?	Aside from a few initial issues at the start of the Soledad Community Kids program, there have been no issues in getting students to follow face mask requirements. Younger students need occasional reminding to place their mask back on their face after eating.
How have those students and staff in cohorts done as far as getting sick?	There have been no COVID cases in students or staff in the Soledad Community Kids program. When a student has become ill (not COVID) during the program they are immediately separated from the rest of the class. Additionally, students are advised not to come to the program if they become ill at home. We call to follow up with students who are absent from the program .
How many kids in each cohort?	There are 13 students enrolled in each Soledad Community Kids cohort at San Vicente School and Frank Ledesma School.

<p>What about instances where there can be no distance with students and staff, such as hands on prompting, handle with care, or toileting?</p>	<p>In cases where social distancing may not be possible between students and staff, such as assessment, hands-on prompting, staff will have access to plexiglass barriers and face shields when working with students. In cases of toileting and handle with care, staff will receive training and have access to ample PPE such as face shields and smocks. Handwashing and other proactive approaches will also be utilized.</p>
<p>Can the vaccine be offered to family employees such as spouses?</p>	<p>The vaccines arranged by the district, working with the Soledad Medical Clinic are earmarked for educators. Family members may check with the Soledad Medical Clinic or other local provider and may go to https://www.co.monterey.ca.us/government/departments-a-h/health/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19/vaccination-registration for more information.</p>
<p>Are there any PPE and barriers going to be offered for Adult Ed?</p>	<p>PPE and barriers will be made available for Adult Education employees.</p>
<p>If we have concerns over staff members or students not wearing their mask properly, how would we report that? Or parents who refuse to have their child wear a mask? Will they be held accountable?</p>	<p>Concerns regarding students should be reported to a school site administrator. The administrator will work with the student and, if necessary, the student's parent(s) to rectify the situation. If the problem persists, the student may not be allowed to continue in hybrid/in-person learning. Concerns regarding employees not wearing a facemask properly can be conveyed to the employee or the employee's supervisor or the human resources department. Special needs students may need extra support in wearing face masks. Staff will receive support as needed.</p>
<p>What is being done for students who are high risk and cannot get a vaccine yet?</p>	<p>There is no requirement for students to be vaccinated in order to return to hybrid/in-person learning. As of March 29, 2021, vaccines are available for persons 16 years of age or higher. The many safety precautions that are in place allow students to attend safely. In addition, we are providing a full distance learning option for students.</p>
<p>Will staff be tested weekly, biweekly for COVID-19? What about students?</p>	<p>For counties in the red tier, such as Monterey County, there is no requirement for weekly or bi-weekly asymptomatic COVID testing. The district is currently offering employees COVID testing, free of charge. Testing is currently twice a week, 8:00am - 12:30pm at the Main Street entrance to Main Street Middle School;. There is no requirement for students to be tested in order to return to hybrid/in-person learning.</p>
<p>Is the CDPH the final word on distancing? From what I understand, the 3ft. distance guideline comes from a single study and I'm still uncomfortable with students</p>	<p>Guidance from the California Department of Public Health mirrors the recent update of the Center for Disease Control which changed the minimum distance between students in classrooms from 6 feet to 3 feet. https://edsources.org/2021/california-to-follow-cdcs-recommendation-to-reduce-social-dista</p>

<p>eating six feet apart inside.</p>	<p>ncing-in-school-to-3-feet/651787 The recommended distance between teachers and students remains at 6 feet. The guidance further states that If there are doubts about mask adherence, maintain 6 feet of distancing as much as possible during times when students or staff are not masked (e.g., due to eating or drinking).</p>
<p>How can our music program work at the elementary level if we come back?</p>	<p>Music programs would have to be studied further. It is possible that music education would remain in distance learning format.</p>
<p>What type of barriers are in place with these cohorts that are currently in-person for students and teachers?</p>	<p>The current in-person cohorts under the Soledad Community Kids program include table-based plexiglass barriers and PPE for employees including face shields.</p>
<p>For SpEd aides Mod/Sev who cannot do the 3ft aparts, will there be barriers? Will that be offered for all SpEd classes in general, not just SV?</p>	<p>For instructional aides working in any program with students closer than 3 feet away, plexiglas barriers, face shields and smocks will be made available.</p>
<p>Will class sizes remain the same now moving forward to the next school year?</p>	<p>There has been no change in class size this school year. In a hybrid/in-person learning model, the number of students attending class in person would be reduced to ensure social distancing as a safety precaution. Classes are divided into smaller groups for hybrid instruction to minimize the number of people in a given classroom or on a given site.</p>
<p>Great considerations for levels TK-12!! What are the considerations for Adult Ed classes: ESL, HiSet, CTE Dental careers, Computer Literacy?</p>	<p>The health and safety considerations planned for hybrid/in-person learning would be in place for Adult Education classes. All safety protocols and considerations that are planned for K-12 will be implemented for all our Adult education programs. It is anticipated adult education will finish the 2020-21 school year through virtual learning.</p>
<p>Soledad Adult School has served 350 students this year, any framework for Adult Education?</p>	<p>The health and safety considerations planned for hybrid/in-person learning would be in place for Adult Education classes. Adult education classes have been offered online, this year and this would continue through the end of the year.</p>
<p>Regarding the teacher staying 6ft/3ft. Away, how do we tie shoes, correct pencil grips, help with toileting, etc.?</p>	<p>For scenarios when an employee needs to assist younger learners (TK, JK, preschool), face shields and smocks will be made available to employees. Plexiglass barriers may be moved to accommodate learning needs.</p>
<p>Do we have a say where we want the plexiglas on our tables?</p>	<p>Teachers will have discretion in determining how to arrange plexiglass barriers in their classrooms.</p>

<p>What about common areas for teachers? Restrooms? Staff Lounge/mailbox areas? Copy machines? Will they be sanitized regularly like student spaces?</p>	<p>Common areas such as staff areas, break rooms, restrooms, work areas, copy machines will be sanitized regularly throughout the day, every 1-2 hours.</p>
<p>If a teacher has to call in sick or is out for the day, how will substituting be filed? What will that look like? What if a substitute is unable to be found?</p>	<p>The process for teachers who call in sick will be the same as it has been this year. A protocol for days when a substitute is not available will be developed.</p>
<p>Will we get more support to monitor students, parents, and visitors? Protocols need to be enforced and supported by the District.</p>	<p>Persons allowed on campuses will be limited to students and employees as well as necessary delivery personnel. Levels of support for staff to monitor students and employees will be determined.</p>
<p>Not all people that have COVID have a fever. Is that the only measure we are taking to protect students and staff?</p>	<p>Health screening protocol for persons coming onto school campuses would include health screening questions to be asked regarding COVID symptoms, recent travel, family members health. The health screening is only one small part of the significant number of safety precautions put in place to protect students and staff including face coverings, physical distancing, handwashing, physical barriers, and more.</p>
<p>Will all subs be offered vaccinations? Will they be receiving training in protocols, prior to working with our kiddos? What is the liability of subs coming on without a vaccine, and popping a positive?</p>	<p>Substitute teachers have been included in invitations to be vaccinated through the district's clinics. Substitutes will be included in training in COVID prevention protocols. Generally speaking, employees are protected from liability from the District for their work with the scope of their employment. The District has a duty to defend and indemnify employees for acts or omissions within the scope of their employment.</p>
<p>Is ventilation being addressed at the MSMS without any windows that open? Hand washing stations in classes with no sinks? Staggered students access to classrooms to ensure distancing in the halls, etc.?</p>	<p>The MOTF department has ordered large room air purifiers for Main Street M.S. rooms with windows which do not open. Handwashing stations will be set up around campuses of schools with classrooms which do not have sinks. The process of students accessing classrooms during transition times on secondary campuses will be developed by site administration in consultation with employees.</p>
<p>Where will the students be placed if they do not get picked up on time?</p>	<p>School sites will maintain waiting areas for students who are not picked up from school on time or become ill during the school day.</p>
<p>Kindergarten classrooms have tables. Will tables be removed and desks</p>	<p>Plexiglass barriers have been ordered for both student desks and tables. The placement of desks in classrooms which currently have tables.</p>

brought in?	
With subbing, we won't be able to split classes like we used to when we were unable to find a substitute because of the mixing of cohorts.	The protocol for arranging for teacher substitutes still needs to be developed. This response will be updated when the protocol has been established.
Will teachers be able to place desks based on where they teach from?	Teachers will be able to determine placement of student desks based upon social distancing guidance and provide plexiglass barriers.
Can kindergarten please get desks with plexiglas instead of tables with plexiglas?	The district has ordered plexiglass barriers for both student desks as well as tables. There may be some flexibility in use of furniture. This will be subject to availability of student desks.
What is the timeline for Soledad Transition Center returning?	As of March 25, a date for reopening school has not been set. The date for the return of the Soledad Transition Center will be included in the reopening of school timeline.
Main Street has a shortage of staff restrooms. How will this be addressed for staff being able to use restrooms without having to wait in hallways?	This question will be looked into and response will be provided when a solution is devised. There will be 6ft markers outside restrooms
If there is a fire drill or emergency evacuation, will the emergency evacuation map be modified?	The evacuation protocol and map will remain the same for fire drills and emergency evaluations. Evacuations will need to be modified to ensure social distancing.
Is preschool going to have touchless apparatus?	We are planning to install touchless apparatus in the preschools.
What about water fountains outdoor/playground or will the district provide water bottles for everyone preschool and up?	Touchless water bottle stations are being installed in some locations. For locations without touchless water stations, bottled water will be provided.
Are ventilation systems ready at all school sites?	MOTF is in the process of installing Merv 13 filters in HVAC systems around the district. Air purifiers are being installed in HVAC systems around the district.
When are all the classes and offices be	MOTF has installed plexiglass barriers at all school site offices. Plexiglass barriers for

set/ready for in-person schooling?	classrooms are scheduled to arrive in early April.
Is it realistic for janitors to sanitize diapering rooms between cohorts?	The draft reopening framework includes one cohort per day, allowing for thorough cleaning and sanitizing after students leave to ensure facilities are ready for the next day.
Will air purifiers be added to older classrooms and will the filters be changed regularly from now on?	MOTF will follow factory-recommended schedules for changing of filters in HVAC systems. Air purifiers are being added to classroom ventilation systems.
What if I need the plexiglas dividers attached so students are less likely to be able to move it?	A solution can be provided for teachers who prefer to have plexiglass barriers attached to table tops.
How will contact tracing work to notify staff and families of positive COVID tests at a school site?	The human resources office has implemented a contact tracking system which follows health department guidance. This includes reporting new cases of COVID to the Monterey County Health Department, determining who the positive COVID employee has been in contact with and notifying those who were exposed to the positive COVID employee for 15 minutes or more (per guidance). Staff and student privacy and confidentiality will be upheld.
Will there be additional mental health professionals on campus?	The district is working to identify and add mental health resources for students on campus,
Outdoor/playground equipment - how is it going to be sanitized? By who, teachers, supportive staff, custodians?	There is no plan to immediately reopen playgrounds in school reopening scenarios.
What safety protocols will be in place for school libraries? Will kids check out books? What will the process be for school libraries?	It is not anticipated libraries will reopen right away when school reopens. Protocols for check out and return of library materials will need to be developed.
Per the public health department, what is the number of positive COVID tests needed to close a school site, moving the site to remove learning?	Individual school closure, in which all students and staff are not on campus, is recommended based on the number of cases and stable groups impacted, which suggest that active in-school transmission is occurring. Closure would be considered in consultation with the health department.
A site like CEC who doesn't have a health aide, who will be doing temperature	Recent guidance indicates that temperature screenings are not required. The District will be planning to utilize a self-screening form.

readings all day long? We also do not have a full time custodian.	
What protocols will make sure that adults working in school classrooms during the school day will not be passing cohort germs to the after school program cohorts?	Students who participate in hybrid/in-person learning will safely transition from regular classrooms to separate locations on K-8 school sites. Participating students will be rescreened prior to the start of the ASP each day.
Will we have RTI aides in elementary schools starting in August?	AB 86 identifies funding for districts to hire paraprofessionals as part of the Expanded Learning Time and Academic Interventions grant. A plan for hiring of paraprofessionals will be developed as part of the district's grant application.
Is there any plan for starting the next school year early or offering a more robust summer program for students that need it?	The Expanded Learning Time and Academic Interventions grant portion of AB 86 includes language for expanded learning time which may include expanded and/or a more robust summer learning program. Our district will develop its summer program as part of the AB 86 grant application.
Can I get the second vaccine dose at a different location?	Employees who received their first COVID vaccination (Moderna vaccine) on March 8 may get their second vaccine on April 7 or April 12 at the Soledad High School gymnasium. Employees may get their second dose elsewhere depending upon the provider. The employee should be sure to bring the COVID vaccine card provided at the first COVID vaccination.
When will more instructional aides be hired since 10% of the new funding model goes towards hiring new instructional aides? Where will those instructional aides be placed?	AB 86 identifies funding for districts to hire paraprofessionals as part of the Expanded Learning Time and Academic Interventions grant. A plan for paraprofessionals will be developed as part of the district's grant application. The grant application is due to the state on June 1. A timeline will be announced when it has been established. Assignment locations of instructional aides will be determined at or after that point.
Will the sprayers be thick & sticky? Or is it a fast drying spray? How long does it sanitize once sprayed?	The spray dries in less than 30 minutes. It is a fine mist.
Are you adding more hand washing stations to Soledad High School campus? And if so, where do you plan to place	Handwashing stations will be added to campuses near classrooms which do not have sinks.

them?	
How loud are the air purifiers? Will students be able to hear each other and teachers over the air purifier?	The air purifiers are not any louder than current HVAC systems.
How about we have the COVID shot and my 4 younger children don't have the vaccine and become infected at work bring it home and put my children in danger?	Employees who have been vaccinated and completed the 2-dose cycle (1-dose cycle for Johnson & Johnson) should be safe per guidance for each vaccine.
What grades are we looking to bring back this year?	The schedule for which grades would return to hybrid/in-person learning has not yet been determined.
Who would be watching or taking care of those students being isolated?	The supervision of the waiting areas for students who may be ill has yet to be determined.
What is BOT?	BOT refers to the Board of Trustees.
If students come back, will it be for academic instruction? In Salinas they are doing enrichment activities while students are on campus and academic learning is still continuing online.	The schedule, participating grades and types of instruction are still being determined. As these elements are finalized, they will be announced.
Will the after school program be still at 6 pm?	The after school program may be offered virtually. The After School Program will begin following dismissal for students attending hybrid/in-person learning each day. After school program hours will depend on the length and model of the instructional day.