

Downieville (K-6) Waiver Addendum

Areas identified by local health department that are being integrated into the Reopening Plan:

Identification and Tracing of Contacts: Actions that staff will take when there is a confirmed case. Confirm that the school(s) have designated staff persons 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.

The Sierra County Health Department will be notified of any positive cases that are reported to our site and submission of possible others that have been exposed by Allison Baca (secretary) or James Berardi (principal).

Testing of Students and 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 and what instructions they will be given while waiting for test results. Describe how staff will be tested periodically to detect asymptomatic infections.

**Students or teachers who are exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 such as fever or any combination of the symptoms listed in our Health Check will be sent home immediately (students quarantined in an isolation room with a chaperone until a parent or authorized adult comes to pick them up). Students and teachers/staff with symptoms will be recommended testing through local health agencies by Allison Baca upon check out or leave from the school or contacted by Principal James Berardi within 24 hrs about testing options individuals can pursue (i.e. Western Sierra Medical or other applicable locations). Individuals with symptoms will be quarantined until:*

*(1) they can provide a negative test result for COVID-19 OR
(2) have been in quarantine for 10 days and have been fever free for 72 hrs (without the use of fever reducers) **and** feel improvement in other symptoms (anyone that is symptomatic or tests positive has 10 days from start of symptoms or test date)*

OR

If an individual has close contact exposure quarantine for 14 days

*Individuals who test positive for SARS-CoV-2 who **never develop symptoms (i.e. asymptomatic)**, may return to work or school 10 days after the date of their first positive test for SARS-CoV-2.*

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

Personal identity (such as name, location, or other identifying factors) of students and staff who test positive or have been exposed to COVID-19 will never be released in correspondence from the school/district—per the requirements of FERPA and HIPAA. Correspondence from the school about individual cases or the possibility of individual cases will be sent out by the principal to relevant school families/community members that would be affected via email or mail or both (see letters attached). The Sierra County Health Department will be contacted by Allison Baca or James Berardi as well, to reach out to the individual and contact them for tracing and monitoring as well as communicating concerns with non-school personnel or families.

If COVID-19 positivity or exposure happens in a larger scale (i.e. beyond contained classroom cohorts) and affects the entire school or community at large, Superintendent James Berardi will contact parents and families via an “All Call” explaining risks and school/district plans in response (i.e. a shift into distance learning or other options based on health guidelines). Again, no identifying information will be released to any party with the exception of the Sierra County Health Department for tracing and monitoring purposes, per FERPA and HIPAA requirements.

Triggers for Switching to Distance Learning: The criteria the superintendent will use to determine when to physically close the school and prohibit in-person instruction.

Elementary schools will move into a distance learning model per the direction of the superintendent based on the mandates from the California Department of Health and their metrics for school safety. The application of this waiver will allow elementary schools to attend school physically, even when the county is on the County Monitoring List, however jr./sr. high schools will only be held in person when off the County Monitoring List. When the Sierra County Health Department notifies schools that elementary waivers are no longer applicable for the safety of students and staff, elementary schools will move into a distance learning model.