

Meridian Elementary School District Reopening Protocols

Cleaning and Disinfection

- Meridian's staff will clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces within school daily, and throughout the day as practicable
- The custodial staff will, as feasible, use cleaning products approved for use against COVID-19 on the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approved list "N" and follow product instructions.
- Each classroom will be cleaned and disinfected daily.
- 2 foggers have been purchased for disinfecting and will be used daily
- The office and staff areas will be cleaned and disinfected daily.
Each bathroom will be cleaned and disinfected daily. High touch areas in all bathrooms and classrooms will be disinfected regularly throughout the day.

Cohorting:

- All classes will be in grade level pods following the most current guidelines
- Class sizes are not expected to exceed 14 students in order to meet distancing requirements. There will be an average of 14 or less students in each class.
- While in the classroom, students will be socially distanced with desks separated with 6 feet separation to appropriately meet distancing requirements.
- Students will wash their hands or use hand sanitizer upon entering the classroom, before and after eating, and before and after recess or using the bathrooms.
- All classrooms and buildings have hand sanitizer available in multiple places.
- Students will use their own individual supplies, as provided by the district, (i.e.: pens, paper, markers) and should not share with other students.
- Excess furniture will be removed from classrooms to allow for greater distancing of students.
- Shared equipment will be limited and will be disinfected after each use.
- Classroom drinking fountains will not be accessible (water bottles can be filled) and a water station with disposable cups is also available.

Entrance, Egress, and Movement within the School:

- Students are not allowed on campus until 7:50.
- Students will enter the campus and will be separated at least 6 feet apart and wearing masks.
- Students will have their temperature checked at the front of the school, and/or at the staff parking lot entrance. There will be spaces marked for students to wait to be checked in order to maintain social distancing. If they have a fever of 100.4 F or higher, they will not be allowed to attend school that day. If their parent is not on campus, the student will go to the isolation area and parent/guardian will be contacted for immediate pick up.
- Students will go to their classrooms for the time period between 8:10-8:30.
- Students will have recess outdoors (weather permitting) with their cohort peers. Students will be supervised and reminded to maintain social distancing.
- Playground equipment (balls, ropes, etc.) will be sanitized after each recess and each of the four classes will have their own playground equipment to reduce risk.
- Playground structures will be sanitized after each recess.
- Students will use hand sanitizer or wash their hands immediately before and after recess.
- Drinking fountains will not be accessible (water bottles can be filled) and a water station with disposable cups is also available.
- Dismissal will be from separate locations to allow students to social distance as they leave the classroom and go to the bus, or the dismissal area in the front of the school and prevent families from congregating.
- Campus access will be limited to staff, students, and parents/guardians on official business ONLY. (No volunteers and visitors on campus.)

Face Coverings and Other Essential Protective Gear:

- Per the Governor's July 17th mandate, face coverings are required for staff and students in 3rd-6th grade and recommended for students in TK-2nd grade. Face coverings are available for staff and students.
- Gloves will be available upon request for staff.
- PPE has been purchased and is on site.
- If students, staff or visitors refuse to wear face coverings they will be sent home and/or asked to leave the premises.

Health Screenings for Students and Staff

- All employees will be asked to self-screen before leaving for work to ensure temperatures below 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit and stay home if they have symptoms consistent with COVID-19 or have had close contact with a person diagnosed with COVID-19 in the past 14 days. Employees may return when they meet CDC guidance: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/end-home-isolation.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fprevent-getting-sick%2Fwhen-its-safe.html
- All staff temperatures are taken, recorded and signed in upon arrival each day.
- Staff will be trained to recognize possible COVID-19 symptoms and refer students that are displaying symptoms to the office.
- Mr. Ofenham and Mrs. Sykes are the staff liaisons responsible for responding to COVID-19 concerns. Employees should contact them if they have concerns about COVID-19.
- Students will have their temperature checked at the front of the school, and/or at the staff parking lot entrance. There will be spaces marked for students to wait to be checked in order to maintain social distancing. If they have a fever of 100.4 F or higher, they will not be allowed to attend school that day. If their parent is not on campus, the student will go to the isolation area and parent/guardian will be contacted for immediate pick up.
- The Principal/Superintendent has attended multiple webinars available through the California Department of Public Health. Due to the small nature of Meridian Elementary, this was the only staff member needed to attend. This information was shared at a staff meeting on August 3rd, 2020. The protocols during the webinars and guidance received throughout the spring and summer will be the ones put in place by Meridian Elementary School.

Health Hygiene Practices:

- Healthy Hygiene Practices will be taught to all students. The routine of washing hands for 20 seconds, not touching your face, etc. will be reinforced daily at all grade levels.
- Hand sanitizer will be located at every entrance to classrooms and the office

Identification and Tracing of Contacts:

- Meridian Elementary has agreed with the Sutter County Superintendent of Schools to use the county nurse and resources to act on its behalf for help in any area that is needed in the area of identification and contact tracing. With a staff of 8, Meridian asked for help in this area due to limited staff availability.
- Any student or staff member who has a fever of 100.4 or higher will be advised to isolate at home for 24 hours from the onset of symptoms and resolution of symptoms for at least 24 hours, or if student produces a negative test, can return to school after no longer having a fever for 24 hours without use of medication.
- The school will contact the Sutter County Public Health Department and the Sutter County Superintendent of Schools if we are notified that a student or staff member has a positive COVID-19 test. Sutter County Public Health and Sutter County Superintendent of Schools will work with Meridian on a case by case basis to determine the extent of exposure to other students and staff

members and consider if classroom, office, or school closure is warranted, and the length of time based on the need to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and allow for additional cleaning. Meridian will follow the Governor's guidance on school closure. A classroom will close if there is 1 confirmed case of COVID-19. The school will close if at least 5% of the student body and/or staff have confirmed cases of COVID-19 within 14 days. Classroom or school closure will result in using distance learning to ensure continuity of learning until the classroom or school can reopen.

- The school will communicate with staff/families in the case of a student or staff member with a positive test for COVID-19, in accordance with the privacy requirements of FERPA/HIPPA and the communication guidance as required from County Public Health.
- Families who are not comfortable sending their children back to school are able to continue to access distance learning options.
- Students and staff who express symptoms related to Covid-19 are expected to stay home. Students will not be penalized for poor attendance due to health-related absences. Please do not give your child fever reducing medicine and then send them to school. If they have symptoms, they should stay home...for their health and the health of others.

Physical Distancing:

- While in the classroom, students will be socially distanced with desks separated appropriately. (6 feet for all classrooms with 14 or less students including playground, hallway, gathering areas)

Staff Training and Family Education:

- Staff training occurred on August 3rd, 2020 at our regular staff meeting and ongoing training has occurred on a weekly basis over the course of the school year.
- Our school newsletter and website will share information on how to keep students safe and healthy.

Testing of Students and Staff:

- Meridian Elementary School District students or staff who have symptoms of COVID-19 or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 will be rapidly tested, even if the individual is asymptomatic.
- The individual in question will be sent home immediately if not already quarantined
- Individual will be directed to undergo testing through:
 - Their health care provider, or
 - <https://www.suttercounty.org/assets/pdf/coronavirus/COVID-19%20Testing%20LHI.pdf>
 - <https://www.placer.ca.gov/coronavirus>
 - https://www.saccounty.net/COVID-19/Pages/Symptom-Screening_MobileTestingSite.aspx

Triggers for Switching to Distance Learning:

- The Local Health Officer may determine that school closure is warranted due to multiple cases in multiple cohorts at a school or when at least 5% of the total number of teachers/students/staff are cases within a 14-day period. The Local Health Officer may determine that school closure is warranted due to local epidemiological data. If school closure is deemed necessary, staff and students will switch back to Distance Learning. Parents will be immediately notified.
- Meridian also determined that a positive case within a single class will put the class on distance learning for a two-week period to ensure no spread. If a case happens in a class with a sibling in another class, both classes will be put on distance learning for the two weeks until negative tests are proven.

Communications Plan:

- Meridian Elementary School will maintain communication systems that allow staff and families to self-report COVID-19 symptoms and receive immediate notifications of exposures and closures. Communication will maintain confidentiality as required by FERPA and state law related to privacy of educational records and other privacy laws. The March 2020 Student Privacy Policy FERPA & Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) FAQs (Department of Education) will provide the staff with additional guidance on how to provide effective communication. Local Health Departments will notify the school administration if a case and contact investigation reveal exposure at the school site.

- The administration and teachers will communicate clearly, consistently, and often with stakeholder groups (students, parents/guardians, staff and community) with the most up to date information available.
- The administration and teachers will communicate with families/staff/community through a variety of platforms (i.e. email, website posts, social media, newsletter, text messages, phone calls).

School Website URL

www.meridiantigers.com

Additional Resources:

CDPH and Cal/OSHA Guidance for Schools and School-Based Programs

<https://files.covid19.ca.gov/pdf/guidance-schools.pdf>

California Department of Education Stronger Together: A Guidebook for the Safe Reopening of California's Public Schools

<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/he/hn/strongertogether.asp>

CDPH COVID-19 and Reopening In-Person Learning Framework for K-12 Schools in California, 2020-2021 School Year

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/CDPH%20Document%20Library/COVID-19/Schools%20Reopening%20Recommendations.pdf>