

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## AZUSA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT REOPENING SCHOOLS

### Instruction/School Day

#### **If I keep my child in Distance Learning, will they remain with their teacher?**

The goal is to keep students with their teacher, but this will depend on the number of students wanting in-person versus distance learning.

#### **If I send my child in-person, will they remain with their teacher?**

The goal is to keep students with their teacher, but this will depend on the number of students wanting in-person versus distance learning.

#### **Does CDC control the hours in school? If so, what are the maximum hours you could put a student in in-person learning?**

The CDC does not control the hours in school. We follow the Los Angeles County Department of Health Orders, but they do not determine the hours in school either.

#### **My kinder child is doing the homeschool option/virtual academy now. Can they go back to in-person?**

Yes, homeschool and virtual academy students can return to in-person learning.

#### **How often will our students be going to in-person school, and for how many hours per day?**

Students will be going to school in-person two days a week, three hours each day.

#### **Is the teacher in the classroom only teaching to the students in the classroom or to some students on zoom as well?**

The teacher will only be teaching to the students in the classroom.

#### **What will asynchronous learning look like? Will it be just links for independent work for the student to do on his own time? Can asynchronous learning be done any time during the day, or must it be done during the time on the schedule?**

Asynchronous learning will continue to look like it currently does, except for the times on a weekly basis have changed.

#### **If we choose to do online learning, will we be able to change to in-class learning in the same semester? And conversely, if we do in-person and decide it isn't working, can we switch back to online?**

Yes.

#### **What will drop off and pick up look like for kinder students?**

This will be different at each school; please attend the site meetings on reopening or contact the school office.

#### **Will opening schools affect the schedule for the Virtual Academy?**

We are working on adjusting the early release schedule and will communicate any changes.

**Will students have to go to school with their Chromebooks, materials, and books?**

This will be different at each school. Please attend the site meetings on reopening or contact the school office.

**Will we be staggering class start times and dismissals? Or will all students begin and dismiss at the same time?**

Students will begin and dismiss at the same time.

**Will students with a 1-on-1 aide be impacted by the social distancing guidelines at school?**

Intensive Individual Services, also known as 1:1 services, will be provided as outlined in a student's IEP. Physical distancing will be maintained as is feasible and if it does not interfere with student support. Students who need closer physical proximity will receive support as appropriate.

**Will Think Together have more open spaces?**

We are working with each site to determine if an additional cohort is needed.

**What is the plan for assisting our students in regaining the learning they have already lost?**

Will will be offering a summer learning program in addition to creating a learning recovery and acceleration plan, which is required by the state.

**If we decide not to return to in-person learning, will the Think Together morning program still be available like it is now?**

Think Together will offer a similarly structured program as they have been offering with Distance Learning.

**For the 2021/2022 school year, will we be able to choose if we want our child/children to continue virtual academy?**

Guidelines for 2021-2022 have not been released yet.

**What evidence led the district to determine that a full day of in-person instruction was too great a risk? And at what rate does the risk decrease between a "half-day" and a "full-day" of school?**

We follow the Los Angeles County Department of Health guidelines and protocols. The restriction of how many students we can have in each classroom led to this schedule.

**Are recess and break the same thing? Will students be able to use the restroom outside of recess/break time?**

Yes, the break described in the schedule is the same thing as recess. Students will have staggered breaks where they will remain with their class. They can use this time to do an outdoor activity as a class, use the restroom, refill their water bottles, etc. Students will be able to use the restroom outside of this break.

**Suppose my child is currently being homeschooled and could not participate in Dual immersion due to being homeschooled. Can I have them return to onsite school and attend Dual immersion again?**

Please reach out to your child's school principal.

**Are parents going to be allowed to choose which two days of the week our child goes to in-person class?**

Parents can request which two days they prefer, and although not guaranteed, sites will be trying to accommodate these requests.

**How do you anticipate being able to make sure kindergartners maintain a mask on?**

Our teachers and staff are amazing at teaching our students about this rule and many others. They will employ similar strategies as they have in the past.

**So, how does this affect the attendance policy? If the student feels well enough to go to school, but the school sends them home, how will this be counted?**

This scenario will not be counted as an absence.

**Will elementary students have the opportunity to participate in assemblies, extracurricular activities, and plays?**

Per public health guidelines, large gatherings are not permitted at this point. We will continue to monitor these guidelines and adjust activities accordingly.

**How will discipline be handled if a student is not adhering to social distancing?**

Please refer to your site principal.

**Will students need to wait in a line to be temperature checked inside or outside the school gate? Will parents be required to wait with them?**

This will be different at each school. Please attend the site meetings on reopening or contact the school office.

**What will the hours be for Think Together?**

The hours will be 7:30 am-2:30 pm four days with one early release day.

**Why are the TK-2nd grade students scheduled first for the reopening for in-person instruction?**

As we looked at our elementary grade-levels and having to decide on a group, it made sense to bring back the students that might be having the most difficult time with distance learning.

**If requested to quarantine for ten days will the students be set up with Distance Learning so that they do not lose learning time?**

Yes.

**Are dual immersion classes required to return in-person?**

No students are required to return in-person.

**How will we know what group our child is in?**

Your school site will be communicating this information.

**If parents choose to keep their children in the distance learning model, would they keep the current schedule or will they have an adjusted shorter learning schedule similar to the hybrid model?**

Their schedule will change to the schedule in the Reopening Guidebook.

**Why is there less instructional time?**

Compared to our Distance Learning Schedule, there is more time in some instances, and in some instances, there is less. The way the schedule has been organized per week has changed.

**Will there be any PE offered?**

At this time there will be no PE offered in-person.

**How will this affect services such as speech with instructional time being shortened?**

Related services may also include virtual options.

**If I have children in different grades such as 1st, 5th, and 6th grades, are they able to return the same days and hours?**  
That will be the goal.

**What if there is a combo class? How do they determine when the students will start school?**

**Combination classrooms will start as follows:**

- 2/3 combos on 3/29
- 4/5 combos on 4/12

**What if more students sign up for in-person learning than the allowed classroom capacity?**

They will be split between Group A and Group B.

**I want my children to continue in Distance Learning and want our district to receive all the funds possible. Will AUSD receive less funds because I choose to keep my children in full Distance Learning? Or does this not matter because I have the "option"?**

This decision does not affect funding.

**Will the teachers actually teach in front of the class as before?**

Teachers will provide rigorous, in-person instruction using a variety of strategies.

**Do the students have Spring Break this year?**

Yes, students will have Spring Break this year as planned the week of April 5.

**How does this new schedule affect the choir and band programs? Will the students still be able to have those classes?**

At this time, music classes will be virtual.

**What is the independent study process?**

If you are interested in learning more about enrollment in independent study, you may reach out to our department of Child Welfare and Attendance at 626-858-6168.

**What does asynchronous mean?**

Students learn at home by completing academic assignments.

**Will preschool return in person?**

The preschool program will offer a hybrid option that includes in-person and synchronous, and asynchronous instruction.

**When do parents need to decide on the plan/schedule for their child?**

Your school site will be communicating this information.

**If a student has an accident and needs a change of clothes, will the parent still be allowed on campus to bring the clothes?**

Parents are permitted to visit the school office if they pass the screening protocol.

**Will there be an orientation for parents/students in kinder who are not familiar with the school or teachers?**

Your school site will be communicating this information.

## Special Education

### **How would life skills groups look since they have nine students?**

Groupings will be determined based on students whose families opt for in-person or Distance Learning. This will be done in collaboration with the Special Education department, the site administrator, and the teacher. Although there are small numbers, the hybrid schedule will be the starting point for decisions.

### **How will bussing work for special education students?**

Durham transportation through the SELPA and AUSD transportation have taken great care to have safety measures in place. This includes distancing, temperature checks, and driver training. For more information from Durham, go to this link: [SELPA Transportation COVID-19 Video](#). Transportation that is provided during a normal school year will continue during the hybrid model.

### **Will students in special education be able to stay on distance learning even if their entire class returns?**

Yes, no students will be mandated to come in-person.

### **If the student has an IEP and we as parents do not plan to send them back to in-person instruction, do we need to call an IEP meeting?**

Parents have the right to call a meeting any time they would like to discuss their child's Individual Education Plan. An IEP meeting is not necessary for returning to in-person instruction. Below are links to Parental Rights and Procedural Safeguards:

[Parents' Rights and Procedural Safeguards \(English\)](#)

[Parents' Rights and Procedural Safeguards \(Spanish\)](#)

## Health/Protocols/COVID Reporting

### **How will the staff handle the situation if students remove their masks?**

Our teachers and staff are amazing at teaching our students not only about this rule but many others as well. They will implore similar strategies as they have in the past.

### **Do you know when and if vaccines for minors will be available or if they are in the works?**

We currently do not know that information.

### **Will the vaccine be mandatory for students and staff?**

The vaccine will not be mandatory for students and staff.

### **Who will staff the isolation room?**

Each site will determine this.

### **AUSD submitted the paperwork regarding their intent to reopen. Has this been approved?**

Yes, it has been approved.

**Do you have a plan if there is a person or people who have tested positive?**

The person or people will be asked to isolate for a minimum of 10 days according to the Department of Public Health guidelines and protocols. District personnel will immediately begin contact tracing to determine if others were close contacts and need to quarantine.

**What about active shooter or lockdown drills? I know we are preoccupied with Covid, but how will the school prepare for an active shooter or school lockdown?**

Active shooter or school lockdown drills are conducted yearly. We will visit this topic with site administrators.

**How are kids with medical needs like the EpiPen going to get medical attention in the event the student needs an injection due to an allergic reaction?**

School staff will be able to administer medication with required consent forms.

**If vaccinations aren't required, how will our children be protected?**

We will be following all of the safety protocols and guidelines from the Los Angeles Department of Health, including masks, social distancing, cleaning, and ventilation, to name a few.

**My child has asthma/allergies. How do I go about the symptom check when they regularly have many of the symptoms?**

You will complete the symptom check truthfully. However, the parent or guardian of the student needs to communicate with the site administrator to discuss this pre-pandemic condition.

**What happens if a teacher has to quarantine? How do they get permission to go back to class?**

Teachers that need to quarantine will follow the same protocol that any other employee needs to follow. The teacher will need to take a COVID-19 test. If the test is positive, the teacher will need to isolate for a minimum of 10 days according to the Department of Public Health guidelines and protocols. If the test is negative, the teacher could return to class once they are free of symptoms and do not have a fever for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication.

**Will the district offer vaccines to parents and family members of students and staff?**

At this point, the District will not be offering the vaccine to parents and family members of students.

**Will there be COVID-19 testing for students and staff? Who will administer the student tests?**

Students and employees who are close contacts to a confirmed COVID-19 person or students and employees who exhibit symptoms related to COVID-19 must receive a test. These tests are self-administered tests that will occur at the site.

**How will you know if a child is a carrier of the virus which shows no symptoms?**

A COVID-19 test will determine if a person who shows no symptoms is a carrier of the virus.

**If I do not want my child to wear a mask for hours at school, does that mean they cannot attend?**

Correct, if a child refuses to wear a mask, they will not be able to participate in-person.

**What is the temperature threshold?**

It is 100.4.

**Where can we find the data to show us how effective these tools are at screening for symptoms?**

We are following the guidelines and protocols put forth by the Department of Public Health and the Center for Disease Control. While we cannot guarantee that these tools for screening are 100% effective, we are very confident that these screening tools will help mitigate the spread of the virus.

**What are the health screening questions?**

Question 1 asks, "Do you have any of the following symptoms today?" Fever (of 100.4 F), Body Aches, Loss of smell or taste, Chills (Uncontrollable body shaking), New cough (Different from a usual baseline cough, e.g., Asthma), Shortness of breath, None of the above. Question 2 asks, "In the past week, have you..." Tested Positive for COVID-19 and must isolate, Been told to quarantine as a result of close contact to a person with COVID-19, Been required to quarantine as a result of a government order (e.g. Mandated Travel Quarantine), Been notified of possible exposure to COVID-19, Recently cared for someone who is/was ill, None of the above.

**Will all students be temperature checked prior to being allowed entry?**

Yes, all students will be screened at entry.

**What accommodations are being made for students with asthma or breathing problems that do not have the ability to wear a mask at all times?**

Students that cannot wear a mask as a result of asthma or breathing problems must continue their instruction remotely/Distance Learning. The District is working on an exemption process for students with exceptional needs in Special Education.

**Who is going to "monitor" the social distancing guidelines?**

Monitoring guidelines will be the responsibility of everyone in order to ensure a safe environment.

**What type of exemption requests for not using masks will be considered?**

Requests for exemptions will be reviewed and the family will receive communication on the next steps in regard to consideration for the individual case.

**Will students and staff be required to show proof of negative results of the COVID-19 virus prior to starting in-person classes? How often? If not, why?**

No. At this time, this is not a requirement of the Department of Public Health. If the county returns to the Purple Tier, the District will be required to administer either bi-weekly or weekly COVID-19 tests of students and employees, depending on the adjusted case rate.

**Will parents be aware if someone in their student's group is exempt from using a mask?**

Medical exemptions fall under the Health Information Privacy Act.

**Can my child wear a face shield only, or does he have to wear a face mask?**

Students will have to wear a face mask.

**Do students have to wear two masks?**

No, students only have to wear one mask, but they can wear two.

**Is my student allowed to wear a face mask and a face shield?**

Yes, they can wear both.

**What is the expectation for regular reporting of COVID exposure by location? Where will these metrics be posted? Who is responsible for tracking them?**

The District reports COVID-19 cases to DPH and Cal/OSHA, as required. Starting the week of March 29th, the District will begin sharing site-specific data of COVID-19 positive cases.

**What type of masks are allowed/not allowed? For example, surgical and cloth are ok, but bandanas and gaiters are not.**

Correct. Medical-grade masks and cloth facial coverings that have two or more layers of breathable fabric are permitted. Bandannas are not recommended by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health unless they are worn with a mask underneath, and according to the Center for Disease Control gaiters are permitted so long as they are double folded or layered.

**Will students be tested without parental consent?**

Consent from a parent or legal guardian (for minor students) is required for school-based testing.

**If a child were to forget a mask, would the office provide one to them?**

Yes, if a student forgets to bring their mask, one will be provided for them at school.

**If a student or teacher tests positive, does the entire class quarantine for ten days?**

Not automatically. In consultation with the Department of Public Health, the District will determine who, if any, from the class were close contacts and need to quarantine for 10 days.

**How will students be isolated, if someone in a class comes in sick- or develops symptoms shortly after being admitted to the school?**

The student with symptoms will be isolated in the site's isolation room until he/she is picked up by a parent or guardian. If the student that required isolation at the site test positive, the District will determine who, if any, were close contacts and need to quarantine for 10 days.

**What is the case rate adjusted for?**

The adjusted case rate is a state-developed formula for tracking the spread of the virus within a state county. The formula accounts for differences between counties through what is called the adjusted case rate.

**Will students return to school in person full-time in the Fall?**

School protocols and guidelines for the Fall are currently not available. As soon as we know what they are, we will communicate this.

**Will all the schools have full-time licensed vocational nurses or registered nurses on campus once children go back to campus?**

No.

**Will there be aides in all the classrooms to assist children if they need to go to the bathroom during class and not during a scheduled bathroom break? If so, how many aides per classroom?**

We do not have aides for all classrooms. In addition to scheduled breaks, students may use the restroom upon request.

**Will parents receive information on staff and teachers that have been/have not been vaccinated?**

No.

**If my child does attend in-person learning and catches COVID-19 as a result, will the school or the district take responsibility? Is the school or district gonna pay for the medical expenses? Do parents have to sign a waiver?**

In the example provided, neither the school nor the district will be liable or assume responsibility.

**Are students allowed to wear gloves to school?**

Yes, students are allowed to wear gloves to school.

**What will happen if a teacher refuses to return in-person because they do not feel safe?**

That will become a personnel matter.

**With the school year just a few months away from being completed, why is reopening occurring now?**

The Los Angeles Department of Health has determined that it is now safe to reopen schools for in-person learning as long as guidelines and protocols are in place. We are happy to be able to offer this opportunity to those that wish to attend in-person.

## **Cleaning/Maintenance/Policy**

**How will the restrooms be sanitized? How often?**

Classrooms are deep cleaned nightly and disinfected after every use.

**How many students will be allowed per classroom?**

The number of students allowed in a classroom is determined by the size of the classroom and how many student desks can fit following the Los Angeles Department of Health guidelines.

**Why aren't desks 6ft apart?**

The Los Angeles Department of Health guidelines allow for desks to be 4ft apart.

**Who is keeping the custodial staff accountable for cleaning up to the necessary standard?**

The site administrator in collaboration with the MOT management team.

**What type of masks will be provided?**

Each student will receive a cloth face mask.

**How often will play equipment be sanitized, and how?**

Playground equipment will not be accessible.

**Will the water fountains be disabled? If so, will a water bottler be provided?**

Water fountains are disabled, and we have installed water bottle refillable stations. Each student is encouraged to bring their own water bottle.

**How many sanitizing stations will each school have? Where will they be placed?**

Eleven touchless hand sanitizer stations are placed throughout each campus. The location varies at each site. Additionally, each classroom has hand sanitizer available.

**What kind of chemicals are being used in the sprayers? How often are these bathrooms and classrooms being sanitized?**

Bathrooms are disinfected every hour and after every scheduled break. Classrooms are disinfected after every use. Super 60 disinfectant is the solution that we are currently using. Both the bathrooms and classrooms are deep cleaned nightly.

**Will classrooms have windows, doors, and air filtration systems running (air conditioning & heating-as needed) all day?**

While students are present, the fan cycle in our HVAC systems will run in order to maintain air filtration.

**Regarding the HVAC air quality control, will there be sign-off sheets ascertaining the air quality as inspected by the professional available to parents to inspect?**

Yes.

**Do you have staff that will only be responsible for making sure that teachers and staff members are following these protocols?**

Site administrators, in collaboration with district leadership, will ensure that the protocols are followed.

**Are you going to have SDS sheets for these chemicals?**

Yes.

**What is mask guidance for drinking bottled water in a classroom setting?**

Masks are required at all times with the exception of while eating or drinking.

**How are you going to stop the parents from gathering around the campus and entering the campus to prevent the further risk of infection to other children?**

We are confident that our parents will help us model appropriate social gathering for our students. Sites will have staff at entrances to help.

**Have the air filters in the school been changed?**

Yes, and continue to be changed every three months.

**When will we receive a bus schedule?**

Those that received transportation previously will receive a revised transportation schedule.

**What's the purpose of the plexi partitions when this is an airborne disease?**

According to the Department of Health, additional PPE is recommended when a person is less than 6 ft apart.

**Were the portables also modified to provide proper ventilation? If so, how?**

Yes, all HVAC systems along with the individual units will have the Ionizer installed.

**What filtration system will be in place in the classroom upon return? What filtration system does OSHA require for reopening? Merv filters?**

There is no required filtration system to reopen. In addition to upgrading our air filters in our HVAC system, we are also installing an Ionizer to all units.

**What's the capacity of the HVAC system? Did you increase the ACH? Is the air filtration system on an "energy-efficient" setting?**

Most units are between 3 and 5 tons, and the air filtration is not on an energy-efficient setting.