Dear KIPP SoCal Families:

As COVID-19 case rates decline, our educators begin to get vaccinated, and our county monitoring levels reach the Tier where grades TK-6 may safely return to campus, we are so excited to be preparing for a hybrid (mix of in-person & remote) option across all KIPP SoCal schools! We have spent the past several months getting our campuses ready, refining our health & safety operating procedures, and working through new learning protocols. With all plans in place, we cannot wait to welcome our KIPPsters back to school!

We will begin to phase in our in-person return to campus on April 20, 2021. Currently, we can only confirm a return to on-campus learning for grades TK-6, and will continue to monitor state guidelines, hopeful that case rates will continue to decline and grades 7-8 will also be eligible for on-campus learning by 4/20. Alternatively, your child will have the option to remain in 100% distance learning, however if you choose to return to campus, your school leader will be working through the phasing in of grade levels and will let you know your child’s exact start date.

This Family Return-to-School Guide is intended to serve as a blueprint for the systems, and safety practices necessary to provide the appropriate continuity of both care and instruction to all students, families, and team members. This information supplements the KIPP SoCal Student and Family Handbook, which contains all of our student-facing policies and important information on your child’s education. If you would like to see a more detailed version of our highest priority back-to-school plans, you can find them in our Return to School Plans (English/Spanish) or Return to School Video (English/Spanish).

Over the last year, I have watched in admiration as our KIPP SoCal community banded together to overcome unprecedented challenges. As we begin our journey back to campus, you have my unwavering commitment that we will continue to do the very best we can for our students, families, and communities. I have never been more proud to be a part of this community. As always, we remain deeply humbled that you entrust us with the important task of preparing your child with the skills and confidence they need to pursue the paths they choose -- college, career, and beyond. We are so grateful for your continued support.

In community,
Angella Martinez
CEO in Residence
Guiding Principles
Steps to Safety: Health & Safety Guidelines
Steps to Safety: Health & Safety Systems
Hybrid Learning
Additional Resources
HEALTH & SAFETY

The health and safety of our school community will always be our first priority.

FOLLOW PUBLIC HEALTH GUIDELINES

Our guidelines for a return to campus are constantly calibrated against the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the California Department of Public Health, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, San Diego County of Public Health, and the advice of medical experts.

FLEXIBLE AND RESPONSIVE

Our school reopening plans are designed to be flexible and adaptable to both the virus conditions that are beyond the control of our school, and responsive to the needs of our schools, families, and team in the face of challenges that arise.
**MONITORING**
Screening for symptoms at home and on-site, and on-going COVID-19 screening testing for students and team members.

**HEALTH & HYGIENE PRACTICES**
Wash your hands upon entry into campus, frequently and thoroughly throughout the day; Use touch-less hand sanitizer (dispensers in all classrooms & throughout buildings), when hand washing is not available.

**FACE COVERINGS**
Students will wear a face covering at all times while on campus, except when eating or drinking. We will provide reusable cloth face coverings to all students; disposable masks will be provided, if student arrives at school without a mask.

**PHYSICAL DISTANCE**
All individuals will maintain at least 4-6ft distance from each other, both indoors & outdoors, even while wearing a mask. Classroom size will be reduced to approximately 50% capacity to accommodate. No in-person group events/assemblies will take place.

**INCREASED CLEANING**
Deep and frequent daily cleaning of shared materials, surfaces, and high touch areas. Deep cleaning of every classroom, every night.

**FACILITY MODIFICATIONS**
Upgraded ventilation systems to MERV-13 air filters, plexiglass dividers in front offices and between students at shared desks 4-6 ft apart, bathrooms & between workspaces, touch-less fixtures, sanitization stations, and classroom supply kits.

**PPE & STUDENT SUPPLIES**
All school facilities will have 3+ months supply of soap, sanitizer, wipes, masks, gloves, and other critical items on hand. All classrooms will have individualized student supplies to minimize contact and shared items.

**RESPONSE**
Clear systems and procedures to handle both suspected & confirmed cases, including contact tracing.
Multi-layered approach to safety

The 'swiss cheese' pandemic defense model recognizes that no one single intervention is perfect at preventing the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

Each layer has holes, but when practiced together, collectively all will help to provide the greatest level of protection. We believe this is how we can, personally and collectively, mitigate the pandemic’s spread. The best way to keep yourself AND others around you safe is to practice these strategies together.

Effectively combating these kinds of viruses (and other illnesses) relies on personal and shared responsibilities, each helping prevent the holes in the defense layer from lining up and enabling COVID-19’s reach to expand.

Steps to safety: guidelines
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>STABLE GROUPS</th>
<th>FOOD SERVICES</th>
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<tr>
<td>Students will be assigned to one &quot;stable group&quot; of children and adults. Stable groups stay together throughout the school day and do not physically interact with children outside of their stable group.</td>
<td>Students will receive a free, healthy breakfast and lunch every day. On-campus, meals will be eaten in the classroom or other designated location where health &amp; safety guidelines are met. Students will take meals home for the days they are not present on-campus.</td>
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<tr>
<th>STUDENT RESTROOMS</th>
<th>HALLWAYS</th>
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<td>Bathroom breaks will be scheduled &amp; supervised to avoid physical interaction between stable groups &amp; maintain physical distancing between students. Limited number of students allowed in restrooms at once and face coverings worn at all times.</td>
<td>We will stagger passing periods and install floor decals and directional signage to direct traffic flow through hallways and stairways. Touch-less water dispensers are installed throughout school in place of water fountains.</td>
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<th>VISITOR POLICY</th>
<th>SPECIALS &amp; PE CLASSES</th>
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<td>In-person visitors to campus will be extremely limited with few exceptions. Visitors must comply with all health &amp; safety protocols when on campus. Virtual visits will continue to be utilized for parent meetings with teachers and admin.</td>
<td>We will only offer these classes in-person when we’re able to meet extended health &amp; safety guidelines. We will maintain both increased both physical distancing of 12 ft and outdoors those classes that involve greater respiratory output. Otherwise, classes will be held virtually only.</td>
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<th>HEALTH ROOMS</th>
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<td>Students who begin to show symptoms of COVID-19 during the school day will be separated from others immediately, will wait in a safe and welcoming “health room” until picked up; parent/guardian will be contacted for immediate pick up of the student.</td>
<td>Recess will be scheduled so that there is no physical interaction between each stable group of students. Face masks worn at all times and 6 ft physical distance will be maintained. Play structures may not be used and students will sanitize hands before and after outdoor breaks.</td>
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Monitoring Systems & Procedures

Our monitoring system is comprised of at home, on campus and routine COVID-19 testing.

**AT HOME HEALTH SCREENING**
*Students & Team Members*

- Students and team members must self-monitor daily.
- Do not come to school if you have symptoms of COVID-19 (e.g. fever, chills, cough, shortness of breath) or if you’ve had close contact with someone who has COVID-19 or has tested positive.
- If student has tested positive for COVID-19, has been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, or is experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, parent/guardian/caretaker must report it immediately to the school office.

**ON CAMPUS HEALTH SCREENING**
*Students, Team Members & Visitors*

- All schools will conduct daily health screenings that will include:
  - A temperature check
  - Symptom & exposure questionnaire
  - Sign in/sign out procedures (for contact tracing)

**COVID-19 SCREENING TESTING**
*Students* & *Team Members*

- All schools will conduct routine COVID-19 testing for individuals who do not have symptoms of COVID-19.
- *Finalizing details (vendor, frequency, logistics) for student COVID-19 testing.

If a student or team member tests positive for COVID-19, all individuals present in the classroom/stable group during the infectious period are considered exposed & will be instructed to get tested for COVID-19 & quarantine at home for 10 days.

School leadership team will notify the parent/guardian of any student who was exposed to the positive COVID-19 case at school. Areas of the school that were used by the individual who tested positive for COVID-19 will be temporarily closed for disinfecting.
Returning to Campus!

We are so excited to be preparing for a hybrid (mix of in-person & distance learning) option across all KIPP SoCal schools! And while all hybrid learning programs will be customized for each school community, there will be common elements across all programs within all KIPP SoCal Public Schools:

- All families can elect to participate in hybrid learning or remain 100% virtual through the end of the 2020-2021 school year.
- Grades TK-6 will begin to phase in in-person learning as of April 20.
- All schools will have phased in all eligible students (those who wish to participate in the hybrid program) by April 30.
- Each school will only have approximately 50% capacity on any given day to maintain physical distancing.
- There will be (2) student cohorts; Each cohort will attend school in-person two half days a week and the other three days of school will continue remotely.
- Students will be grouped by families, wherever possible, so that they will all attend school in-person on the same day(s).
- Students who opt-in for the hybrid program can opt-out and revert to 100% distance learning for the remainder of this school year.
- Students who do not opt-in for the hybrid program and would then like to opt-in will be placed on a waiting list to ensure the safety of cohorts is maintained. We will, of course, make all efforts to pull students off the waitlist as soon as possible while prioritizing health and safety guidelines.
- Many Special Education services (eg. speech, counseling) will remain virtual.

Once we have received the interest/parent survey responses on attending in-person, your school leader will contact each family to let them know which cohort their child will be grouped within and which days they will attend.

We cannot wait to welcome our kippsters back home!

It’s worth noting that due to current health guidelines, schools are only permitted to open via a Hybrid approach, as conditions continue to improve, we hope to return to full in person learning in the future.
Los Angeles County Department of Health Reopening Protocols for K-12 Schools
http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/docs/protocols/Reopening_K12Schools.pdf

California Safe Schools for All Hub:
https://schools.covid19.ca.gov/

Los Angeles County Department of Public Health COVID-19 Information:
http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/index.htm