

COVID – 19 FAQ

As of July 17, 2020

Transportation / Arrival Procedures

- Q Will a staff member ride the bus to take temperatures and complete the intake forms for preschool and Diamond Valley Elementary?
- A Yes, a staff member from AELC or DVES will use a no-touch thermometer for temperature checks, complete health check form (AELC) and ensure proper loading, unloading and seating procedures.
- Q If a parent gives Tylenol before the temp reading on the bus, what do we do?
- A We can only react to the symptoms that arrive at the bus or develop at school. We hope that parents will follow the sick policy and keep kids at home.

Masks / Face Coverings

- Q Will masks be provided?
- A Yes
- Q Will “ski buffs” be appropriate as masks?
- A As long as there is a seal around the nose and mouth. Bandana type masks with open bottoms are not approved.
- Q When would it be appropriate for kids to take off masks during the school day?
- A When social distancing outside in recess or lunch.
- Q Where will staff and students put their masks during recess and lunch?
- A Students can put them in their pockets or leave in their bag at their desk or next to them while eating lunch. Administration will look into providing sandwich bags or other portable storage item.
- Q Do we have face shields, because I would prefer those?
- A We do have face shields for adults. We are in process of ordering smaller face shields for students. Face shield have been approved for teachers during instruction and for some students who may require do to special education requirements.
- Q Masks with the clear face would be ideal for the younger grades.
- A Administration is looking into this option. The researched versions are very costly at this time.
- Q If class is outside and social distancing, can they take students and staff take their masks off?

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As of July 17, 2020

A Yes

Q Since masks are required, should parents get their child used to wearing one before school starts?

A Yes, we will be updating our website and sending communication with recommendations.

Q What is the course of action if a child refuses to wear a mask?

A We cannot suspend for willful defiance. We will have to educate and isolate and involve parents.

Distance Learning

Q Is there another option for distance learning, rather than zoom?

A There are several. The District will be using Zoom, hangouts, CANVAS or others. Staff will be provided professional development on all platforms the District supports.

Q What about students who have medical issues who need distance learning?

A The District will provide services to students who require distance learning. We may require a doctor's note and implement a 504 plan.

Q What happens if a student has to self-quarantine for 14 days? Will the student be allowed to distance learn and will they be considered truant?

A They will be allowed to distance learn or have work sent home. They will not be considered truant as long as they participate in the assigned work at home.

Q Will parents be allowed to choose distance learning if their child is in a medically at-risk group?

A If your child is medically at-risk and has doctor's note requiring them to stay at home they will be provided distance learning opportunities.

School Day Procedures for Staff & Students

Q How will subs work? What if we don't have subs? Can classes combine?

A We may have to combine classes in the gym, which would impact lunch procedures. We will have to implement several plans for various scenarios.

Q Could the computer lab tables be put outside classrooms or areas for outside classrooms since they are no longer in use?

A Yes

Q Can kids use books? Will they have to be kept at their desk with a bag of supplies?

A Kids can use books. The books should be at each student's desk for individual use only.

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Q During the staggered start schedule, are children attending 5 days a week?

A Yes

Q What steps is the school taking to combat learning loss?

A Teachers will be focusing on the four core subjects (Math, English Language Arts (ELA), Science, and Social Studies). Students will complete academic level assessments so teachers can meet the individual child where they are and help move them forward.

Q If a child is on the stage in isolation what staff member separates from watching rest to supervise? (Bear Valley)

A Logistics and staffing will be addressed as we get a better understanding of enrollment.

Q Could you discuss the pedagogy and learning approach taken at Bear Valley Elementary School?

A BVES is a public school, so they are required to teach the state standards. However, the local area is incorporated into lessons as much as possible.

Q Will the district be hiring a full time or part time custodian for Bear Valley Elementary School for daily cleanings or will the teacher be expected to do this?

A Our Bear Valley custodian is returning from leave and will be onsite four hours per day.

Q Where will BVES students go to have lunch or recess during winter?

A This will be worked out with the teacher as we understand the enrollment numbers.

Q Will substitutes be included in conversations regarding new processes and procedures?

A Substitutes are required to return the 2020-2021 sub questionnaire indicated their intentions and availability. They will be included in training.

Q Will teachers or staff need to disinfect that bathroom after each use? (BVES)

A Cleaning protocols are being developed.

Q How well ventilated is the bathroom? Will there be some time required for viral particles to settle before the next child comes in? Or is there a good air exhaust system? (BVES)

A The Superintendent is going to BVES to examine the bathroom ventilation.

Q Is there a number of kids where the district would consider hiring an additional full-time staff member at BVES?

A Depending on the enrollment the District may need to hire an additional instructional aide / paraprofessional to assist the teacher.

Q Why not hire another credentialed teacher to share the load?

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As of July 17, 2020

- A Bear Valley is a one room school house. There is no additional credentialed teacher position budgeted, board approved or union bargained.

COVID-19 Testing & Related

- Q Will there be regular, required, and scheduled testing of staff or students for COVID-19?
- A We cannot require students to be tested for COVID-19. July 17, 2020 Governor Newsom indicated that there may be a testing requirement for staff. More information will be forthcoming
- Q Will you encourage and allow time for staff to get tested at the free County testing days?
- A We encourage and support testing for staff and students.
- Q Are there cases of children in Alpine with COVID-19?
- A As of 7/17/2020, Alpine has reported its second positive case of COVID-19, but we do not know the age. HIPPA laws prevent the dissemination of that information.
- Q What should a parent do if they suspect themselves or a student has COVID-19?
- A Contact Alpine County Public Health and your school.
- Q What is the direction for parents during the COVID-19 test waiting period?
- A Please shelter at home and work with Alpine County Public Health

Enrollment

- Q With the influx of Kirkwood students are there significant changes to DVES enrollment?
- A We do not know what the enrollment impact is until we open enrollment.
- Q How do you express interest in enrolling a student?
- A You can reach out to the principal or administrative staff
- Diamond Valley: Eleanor Moore or Carla Marchut at (530) 694 – 2238
 - Bear Valley: Matthew Strahl or Lia Story at (530) 694-2230
- Q To enroll in Bear Valley Elementary School, would it require removing my child from our previous school?
- A Yes, you cannot be dual enrolled in school.
- Q Do immunization records transfer in California from district to district?
- A They do not. New students will be required to turn in immunization records.

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Q Is there a deadline for parents to make a decision? That is, will enrollment be closed at a certain date?

A The district would like to know in advance but there is no enrollment closure.

Future Communication & Updates

Q When can we expect another update?

A This is a very fluid situation. The next communication will most likely be about the opening of enrollment.