

CLASSIFIED Q & A

Can classified have specific protocols or an FAQ laid out to potentially ease some of our concerns regarding reopening? **The District is following all State and County guidelines and protocols. Please reference the NSD Health and Safety Reopening Plans on the District website <https://www.newhallschooldistrict.com/Page/3496>**

Will there be extra staffing for custodians or more hours offered as they will be disinfecting? **The plan is to bring in one night custodian for an earlier shift to support the day custodian for the mid-day cleaning between sessions. If additional custodial staff are needed, we will hire substitutes to support as well.**

Who else will be responsible for disinfecting, and will the time spent cleaning be taken into consideration of our hours? **The custodians will be using hydrostatic sprayers to disinfect between shifts. Throughout the day, the bathrooms will be cleaned based on a schedule at each site. Hand sanitizing stations will be placed throughout the campus.**

Who is required to be in the classrooms? **Classroom teachers will be in the classrooms and any support staff assigned to be with the teacher.**

How are we balancing support for both distance learning upper grades and on-campus for primary? **Site administrators will have schedules developed to support this process.**

Can we go back with partial staff? Whoever feels comfortable going back can go back? **We are all deemed essential workers and can be expected to work in-person unless you have provided a medical release that is authorized by HR.**

What visual cues have been added to school sites to help students stay physically distant in hallways and lines? Will there be 6ft markers? Will recess be staggered? **Signage is everywhere around the campus and has been in place since late August.**

Will there be consequences for students who do not wear masks appropriately after REPEATED reminders? **Currently students are required to wear masks to be on campus based on the latest guidance from LADPH. The governor suggested the children under 8 do not have to wear a mask, but Los Angeles public health requires all students to wear one and we fall under LA County public health dept.**

Is everyone (all adults) required to wear mask and shields at all times? When together in the class or groups? **Yes, unless you are alone in a classroom or enclosed space.**

What if some individuals refuse to wear a mask or adhere to social distancing, what happens? This is an expectation, if you see someone, it is all our responsibilities to say something or minimally report it to site admin.

Also on the list there are goggles available, for everyone? Or for who? And is this an option instead of face shield? Please let your site administrator know if you do not have the PPE equipment you feel you need. Goggles/face shields are really designed for SDC support staff.

BSS go into several rooms depending on where support is needed, what will that look like if we reopen? This is allowed as needed. We ask staff to attempt to be socially distanced, if not possible, make sure you move away from individual students around every 10 minutes.

BSS sometimes come in close proximity to students because the students is approaching them, when will it be time to send a student home for violating social distancing? These will be decisions made at the site level.

Will there be hazard pay? No

If there is a positive case, will the District quarantine the whole school or just those affected? No, we will follow guidance from LADPH.

How do guidelines differ under the waiver with regards to number of positive cases and closing a classroom or school down? It does not differ. LADPH makes these calls in coordination with the District Office.

What provisions will be made for high traffic areas, such as workrooms, bathrooms, and supply rooms? Can the high use equipment be moved to a hallway or an empty classroom to provide distancing? As adults, we all need to understand and adhere to the requirements around social distancing, wearing a face covering, and washing our hands regularly.

Will there be proper cleaning equipment in workrooms so that someone can wipe down surfaces before and after use? This area is part of a regularly disinfecting schedule throughout the day as part of the reopening protocols.

Are our numbers so low in Santa Clarita that we feel safe to reopen? NSD currently has the lowest numbers of all school districts in SCV. Numbers continue to drop.

Are we requiring the staff and students COVID test result before returning to school? COVID carrier can be asymptomatic. No this will not be a requirement. We will follow State and County recommendations.

Other districts are conducting different and more in-depth Covid screening processes. Having periodic Covid testing for teachers, staff members and students are being required. With NSD

being a small district why can't the same be applied? Dr. Ferrer has spoken about this on many occasions and does not recommend this as it creates a false sense of security. We would need to test every adult and child daily to get accurate information and that is not feasible. We need to adhere to our protocols, face coverings, social distancing, and washing hands.

How do you feel the holidays will affect transmission rates? Is it safe to apply for the waiver when the holidays and flu season are coming up? This is hard to predict. We will continue to assess our situation and take direction from LADPH.

Can you explain the process of what will happen if a person tests positive? Information is shared with our HR Department who then talks with the individual to ask them a series of questions that will need to be shared with LADPH. Based on their direction, steps are taken by our staff to inform others that were in close proximity to that individual. What will be the level of transparency? This is highly confidential.

Will the District pay for medical appointments if a fellow staff member exposes me to the virus? Any COVID related issues need to go through HR.

Will the required quarantine come out of our sick bank? Shouldn't the District provide sick pay that doesn't come out of our own sick bank? You are authorized 14 days, but this is a one time use based on HR 6201.

For employees who are high risk, are we expected to work on campus? What do we do if we are not confident we will be safe? Please reach out to Amanda Montemayor, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources.

Since the front office hours have been cut, and we are short staffed, who will be responsible for students after health assistants and yard supervisors finish their shifts? We will assess each site to determine what supports are needed. The Governing Board has been committed to ensuring that coverage is provided, even if that requires adding hours.

This year we have all been given new responsibilities in addition to our normal yearly expectations. Many times we are given these new tasks on very short notice. Will you continue to approve overtime when we are given unexpected assignments? If this is necessary, with pre-approval.

Does the school board truly believe it is safe to reopen? We miss being with the students, but we are in the middle of a life-threatening pandemic. Yes, given all the latest information and protocols we have in place to safely reopen.

How will you ensure that communication is open and that classified opinions and concerns are taken seriously, even when they may not align with what the district may have hoped? **Communicate with your site admin, NESP, or email the Superintendent jpelzel@newhallsd.com**

Are you able to provide position specific plans, or at least details of any modifications to our job description? **Please contact your site administrator if you have specific questions.**

Will they require us to change our hours? Modify our shifts past our normal position hours/normal school day? If yes, Will we be allowed to turn that down without repercussion? **This could be a request depending upon your position, but we want to partner with all employees and if there are extenuating circumstances, we will work to find a resolution.**

There is concern that what is said on paper, in order to get the waiver, may not be actually followed through or taken seriously at some sites. Please address that. **Addressed above**

Our job requirements are not the same as teachers who will theoretically only see the same 30 kids every day. How do you protect classified staff? **If we wear our proper PPE, social distance, and wash our hands frequently, we will help ourselves and others stay safe. If you have other ideas, please share them with your site administrator.**

When we do go back are we expected to wear ALL PPE? **No, gowns and gloves are optional.**

What about preschool, are going to open if and when TK-2 does and do our children need to wear masks? **Yes, preschools are required to open once schools open.**

How does it work for those of us who's job includes and at times requires them to be closer than 6ft? **Those closer than six feet should wear a surgical mask and a face shield. Glove and gowns should be worn when you anticipate contact with body fluids (e.g. spit)**

Can you please clarify if SDC will be full day when we come back? **SDC will not be full-day until we have an approved waiver for the grade levels of those students.**