

# California Public Health Announces Critical Supplies and Guidance to Support Re-Opening of Schools and Childcare Facilities



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SACRAMENTO – The California Department of Public Health today announced the most recent statistics on COVID-19. California has 122,901 confirmed cases and 4,485 deaths. To date 2,238,463 tests conducted in California, with an increase of 55,792 tests over the prior 24-hour reporting period. As testing capacity continues to increase across the state, an increase in the number of positive cases has been expected. However California remains in the range of stability for case positivity rate and COVID-19 related hospitalizations. Despite increased testing and the reopening of certain sectors of the economy, California's case positivity rate is at 4.5 percent and the number of hospitalizations has decreased by 2.9 percent over the last 14 days.

As Californians will remain at risk for COVID-19 until there is an effective, widely available vaccine, CDPH today also released its first County Monitoring List to give Californians insight into how their county is performing and provide early indicators of developing areas of concern. As the state continues to advance through its Pandemic Resilience Roadmap, CDPH also released guidance for additional sectors of the economy. This guidance provides sectors with information on public health modifications they should implement prior to opening. Upon review of local data related to COVID-19 spread and county preparedness, the county public health officer will make a final decision about the timing for opening a sector.

## **Interim Statewide Guidance for Schools and Updated Guidance for Childcare**

The California Department of Public Health today released this guidance for schools and school-based programs to assist communities, school leaders, staff and parents to plan for the upcoming school year. The guidance is based on the best available public health data, international best practices currently employed, and the practical realities of managing school operations. As the science evolves and the school year draws closer, the guidance will be updated based on the most current information and the progress of the disease in California. In that spirit, the California Department of Public Health also released [updated guidance](#) (PDF) for

childcare programs and providers, including resources for parents and for employers supporting employees with childcare needs.

To support the safe reopening of schools and to protect public health, the Governor's Office of Emergency Services and the Department of General Services will assist public schools (traditional and charter), private schools and childcare facilities in procuring necessary PPE, supplies and equipment.

The following supplies will be distributed to meet the near-term needs of schools and childcare:

- No-touch thermometers for every school and childcare facility totaling over 47,000;
- Face shields for every teacher and childcare provider, totaling approximately 2.4 million;
- Over 14 million cloth face coverings for staff and students;
- Over 16 million disposable masks;
- 123,000 N95 masks for school-based health professionals, including those interacting with symptomatic students; and
- 143,000 gallons of hand sanitizer.

The Department of General Services will also work with schools and childcare providers to procure PPE and other supplies through a statewide process, easing logistical burdens and ensuring lower rates by leveraging the state's purchasing power.

Implementation of the interim guidance should be tailored for each school site and the needs of students and families. School leaders should engage with families, staff, and public health authorities as they begin planning for the upcoming school year.