



Pioneer Programs Student Return Plan Waiver

We are a small school for children with moderate to severe exceptional needs (mostly Autism). COVID closures have significantly impacted our population and they benefit very little, if at all from distance learning. Most of our students are non-verbal with extreme maladaptive behaviors and have extreme difficulty attending to virtual platforms. Many of our families are low income and don't have access to internet and technology. In our attempt to do what's best for our students, we were one of the only nonpublic schools to reopen in the county for ESY after receiving district and parent approvals. We successfully opened our two campuses to 16 of our 46 students from July 6 to July 17.

[14 Criteria for the San Diego County Elementary School Waiver Application]

We currently only have eight K-6 students. We wanted to request a waiver to get them back on campus for our hybrid plan. We would follow the plan below ([1. **Webpage**] which will be posted as a link on our website - www.PioneerPrograms.org >> click "Day School Programs" >> click "Elementary School Waiver"). [2. **Distance Learning**] Due to potential health risks and safety concerns, our program will provide families with the option to continue distance learning if they feel it's best for the safety of their child and/or household. If a student is unable to physically come to campus, we will continue to provide distance learning. We would [3. **Physical Distancing**] assign each student to their own room and [7. **Entrance, Egress, and Movement Within the School**] continue to not allow them to go into any other room (to avoid cross-contamination). [4. **Stable Cohorts**] Under optimal conditions, we would have four students come on Mondays and Wednesdays and four come on Tuesdays and Thursdays. [Consultation] We would only move forward with the waiver return plan with district, parent, staff and community/county approvals. [5. **Face Covering & Other Essential Protective Gear**] Students/staff will all be required to wear face masks. We understand this will be a challenge for some students but it's something we have to work on. Having said that, we will not engage in a power struggle with our students over masks as they are considered exempt.

[8. **Health Screenings for Students and Staff**] At each entrance, there will be a table with [9. **Healthy Hygiene Practices**] hand sanitizer, disinfectant spray, a thermometer and a symptoms checklist (see below). Anyone entering the campus will need to check themselves. If they answer yes to anything on the checklist, they will need to leave. Staff will arrive at 8:30 to prep spaces for the student's day. The first group of students will be dropped off at 9 am at [7. **Entrance, Egress, and Movement Within the School**] designated locations depending on their classroom and [8. **Health Screenings for Students and Staff**] checked for symptoms before leaving their vehicle Side note: If anyone were to get symptoms during the day, they would be separated from the group and sent home immediately. [9. **Healthy Hygiene**

Practices] Students will be required to wash their hands upon arrival, before and after breaks and lunchtime and anytime they use the restroom. Staff will model proper handwashing technique and will reinforce handwashing throughout the day. Note, there will be hand sanitizer or a place to wash hands in every room. Students will stay for 3.5 hours (12:30). Daily instructional minutes will be supplemented through distance learning. The reason why we are reducing on campus hours is to **[4. Stable Cohorts]** avoid needing to break staff. This will reduce the exposure/spread of an asymptomatic person. When on campus, each student will work directly with their 1:1 support staff under guidance given by their teacher. Students will ideally only have one staff (no switches) (unless they are a student with a 2:1). 66% and 50% ratio students may require 1:1 support so eyes can be kept on students at all times for disinfecting reasons. **[10. Identification and Tracing of Contacts]** If there is any cross exposure (need for extra support due to a behavior, staff out, etc), it will be logged so we can track who needs to be quarantined/contacted if someone gets sick.

[3. Physical Distancing] Students will be extremely spread out across the campuses to maximize social distancing. This includes outside and common spaces when possible. **[6. Cleaning or Disinfection]** If any space is shared, such as a bathroom or piece of equipment, it will be disinfected immediately after each use. The school will use, and will provide for use, soap and water and, cleaning and disinfectant products approved for use against COVID-19, on the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) "List N: Disinfectants for Use Against SARS-CoV-2" ("List N") labeled to be effective against emerging viral pathogens. There will be one extra staff in each space/zone whose responsibility is to maintain sanitation. They will disinfect bathrooms after every use (door handles, faucets, flushers, toilet seats, sinks, etc). Additionally, designated cleaning staff will disinfect all utilized areas and surfaces on scheduled intervals while staff/students are present. A full disinfection protocol will take place once all the students have gone home at the end of the day.

[4. Stable Cohorts] It should be noted that some staff members may be working with more than one student within a given week which can increase the amount of people students and staff are exposed to. We plan to do our best to minimize this risk and keep the same staff members working with the same student as often as possible. Parent concerns regarding exposure to more than one staff will be taken into account. When these situations are going to occur, Pioneer Programs will notify the parents/guardians in advance. If staff needs to be out, if we can find a replacement, we will give parents/guardians the option between a sub or distance learning for the day. If no sub can be found, we will provide distance learning.

[3. Physical Distancing] In order to increase social distancing and avoid groups of people in small spaces, staff and students will not use school vans. Any Community Based Instruction that requires vans will be on hold until further notice. Student outings will consist of walks, bike rides, and safe social distancing areas within walking distance of the school.

[4. Stable Cohorts] Only necessary staffing personnel will be permitted to enter learning areas as needed for each student's program (i.e., 1:1 aide will assist students on campus in using

materials and/or electronic online instruction from a teacher or service provider) in order to keep all staff and students exposed to the least amount of people as possible. Services and admin will limit entering workspaces (only when necessary). Teachers will remain distant as well to avoid cross exposure.

[10. Identification and Tracing of Contacts] If a student or staff get symptoms, only that staff/student self-quarantines (instead of closing both campuses) for two weeks. Possibly others who share the space or transportation may also need to self-quarantine depending on exposure. **[12. Testing of Students and Staff]** Students and staff with symptoms of COVID-19 (even some without periodically) will be encouraged to get a test through their health care provider or community testing site. Asymptomatic students and staff will be encouraged to receive regular COVID-19 tests once local testing capacity allows. The Program Directors, HR department and CEO will be the COVID-19 Team and will be responsible for responding to COVID-19 concerns. Staff will be trained and instructed to contact them should an issue arise. The COVID-19 Team will document and track potential exposure, notify local health officials, and notify parents as soon as possible if communication is warranted. We will follow the guidance flow charts of communication and quarantine as directed if there is an occurrence.

[7. Entrance, Egress, and Movement Within the School] Transportation will either be provided by the parent or the district (we will consider providing emergency transportation case by case in a van that allows maximized space between the student and driver when trained staff are willing).

[11. Staff Training and Family Education] Families have received a copy of our return plan, covid-19 resource materials, and students will be given handwashing instructions. Staff have been trained on the Reopen Plan and Safety Protocols and were provided with educational materials and tools for implementing the protocols in their classrooms and with their students. We will also update staff and families as we receive new information.

[13. Triggers for Switching to Distance Learning]

Our school intends to work with County of San Diego public health officials to determine triggers for switching to distance learning and will be following the recommended measures outlined in the COVID-19 and Reopening In-Person Learning Framework for K-12 Schools in California, 2020- 2021 School Year.

[14. Communication Plans] Our school will email all families and staff should an urgent update be warranted (such as potential exposure or school closure). The school will also post all necessary information on our schools' website. Information communicated to school families, staff, public health officials and the community will maintain confidentiality as required by FERPA, HIPPA and state law related to privacy of educational records.

Policies that will be in place:

- Visitors will not be allowed to enter the campus. Staff will participate in a daily screening process prior to entering campus.
- **[5. Face Covering & Other Essential Protective Gear]** Students/staff will all be required to wear face masks. We understand this will be a challenge for some students but it's something we have to work on. Our students are considered exempt. (See CDPH Guidance for the Use of Face Coverings below)
- Students/staff will be required to stay in one area in order to avoid unnecessary contact with other students/staff members working in other areas of the school.
- Specific spaces will be assigned their own bathroom. If there's an emergency and a different bathroom has to be used, we will disinfect and document this.
- Parents will provide written permission for local CBIs (walks in the community, beaches, stores).
- Parents will be asked to follow our modified sick policy. (students will not be sent in with symptoms, parent will pick up a student with symptoms immediately, parent will allow Pioneer Programs to take student temperatures, parent will not hold the school liable if the school has followed all outlined safety protocols)
- Pioneer Programs will check for symptoms prior to the student leaving their vehicle, which may include taking student temperature with a contactless thermometer. When a student presents symptoms while on campus that student will be sent home immediately and removed from any school areas being used by other students/staff. Once a student is sent home for symptoms, that student will be required to stay home from the school campus for two weeks or until a doctor's note is provided. Once a student has been sent home, they will resume regular distance learning until able to return to an on campus schedule.
- If a student or staff is sent home with symptoms (or reports them), the student/staff they were in contact with will be asked to quarantine for 2 weeks after the absence of symptoms. If they were diagnosed with COVID, they will need a doctor's note to return.
- If there are students that jeopardize the safety of a whole classroom (continuously has behaviors that require additional support beyond their 1:1, not staying in assigned areas, demonstrates high risk for spreading a sickness behaviors (coughing, sneezing, wiping mucus on things, spitting, space invading others besides their 1:1, etc), these students may be asked to revert to a distance learning only schedule. For some students, we may consider one day per week to start or Friday's only when even fewer students/staff will be on campus.
- A dedicated number of staff members will be assigned specifically to cleaning all areas and surfaces regularly throughout the day.
- Staff and students will be asked to limit the number of personal belongings brought to campus to only necessary items that can be contained in one bag.

[5. Face Covering & Other Essential Protective Gear] Following guidelines from the California Department of Public Health Industry Guidance for Schools and School Based programs, all students in grades 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th will be required to wear a face covering

throughout the duration of the day, except during meal times and when outdoors if physical distancing can't be maintained. Grades TK, K, 1st and 2nd are strongly encouraged to wear a face covering. Face coverings must cover the nose and mouth. We will exempt students from wearing a face covering if they fall within the CDPH guidelines for individuals exempt. Individuals who refuse to wear a face covering but who are not exempt will not be permitted to remain on campus and will be given the option of distance learning. At check-in students will be reminded to wear their face covering, avoid touching their face covering and to wash their hands frequently. Staff will be trained before the start of school on their requirements to wear a face covering and will remind students throughout the day on proper usage.

Our posted protocols for being on campus:

If you enter the campus these guidelines must be followed:

- We are not permitting visitors at this time.
- You must complete a symptoms checklist prior to entering.
- If you are on the property, you must wear a cloth/mask that covers your nose and mouth. Students are required as well to the best of their ability. We will have extra masks on campus when needed.
- When you enter the building, you must immediately wash your hands (or use hand sanitizer). Wash your hands regularly.
- Stay in your designated spaces on campus and use only your assigned restroom
- Keep social distancing of at least 6 ft. Spread out. There should be no physical contact. Some flex must be given while working with students, but do your best. Keep in mind if it's windy, droplets can carry further than 6ft.
- You must sanitize the things and areas you have touched for the safety of others.
- Increase ventilation by opening windows and doors.
- Create habits and reminders to avoid touching your face and cover coughs and sneezes.
- If you are feeling sick or if you have household members that are sick, stay home and do not come near campus.

[8. Health Screenings for Students and Staff]

Symptoms Checklist

Every day before you or your student leaves the house, make sure the answer is "No" to all the of the following questions:

Have you, your student or anyone in your household had:

- a fever or felt feverish in the last 3 days?
- any of the following new symptoms:
 - Cough
 - Runny Nose
 - Chills
 - Sore throat

- Muscle pains/body aches
- Extreme fatigue
- Vomiting/Diarrhea
- Loss of sense of taste or smell
- Shortness of breath or trouble breathing
- Contact with someone who is positive or highly likely to be positive with COVID-19 in the last 14 days.

If the answer is “yes” to any of these questions, you should not come in or send your student to school. Please let us know immediately as we will quarantine anyone who was exposed for the safety of everyone.