

Elementary School Waiver Application Cover Form

Please submit one application for each local educational agency or equivalent. If applying on behalf of a school district, please submit one application for all elementary schools in the district that are seeking to reopen for in-person instruction. If applying for an independent, private, faith-based, or charter school, please submit an application for each school.

Background Information

Name of Applicant (Local Educational Agency or Equivalent):

Valley Home Joint School District

School Type:

- Traditional Public School
- Charter School
- Private, Independent, or Faith-Based School

Number of schools: One (1)

Total Enrollment: 123 (TK-6)

Superintendent (or equivalent) Name:

Debra Boggs

Address:

13231 Pioneer Road

Valley Home, California 95361

Grades/Number of Students Proposed to be Reopened:

TK K 1st 2nd 3rd 4th 5th 6th

Date of Proposed Reopening: October 5 or TBD based on Protocols and county/state approval.

Name of Person Completing Application: Debra Boggs

Phone Number: 209 847-0117

Email: dboggs@vhjsd.org

Signature:

Date:

I. Consultation

Please confirm consultation with the following groups:

Labor Organization

Name of Organization(s) and Date(s) Consulted:

Valley Home Teachers Association (VTA) 8/17/2020, 8/24/2020, 9/3/2020

Parent and Community Organizations

Name of Organization(s) and Date(s) Consulted:

Valley Home School Site Council, 9/3/2020

Valley Home Parent Teacher Club, 9/3/2020

Valley Home ELAC, 9/4/2020

If no labor organization represents staff at the school, please describe the process for consultation with school staff: No labor organization exists for classified staff. Consultation has taken place via one on one conversations.

II. Elementary School Reopening Plans

Please confirm that elementary school reopening plan(s) addressing the following, consistent with guidance from the California Department of Public Health and the local health department, and are published on the Stanislaus County Office of Education website:

General Virus Conditions for Waiver Application: The metrics below apply specific to Stanislaus County.

1. Fewer than 200 cases per 100,000 of population for over 14 consecutive days.
2. Positive virus test rate less than 8% over the previous 7 days.
3. Less than 10% increase of COVID hospitalizations over previous 3 days.
4. 20% of Stanislaus County ICU beds are available.

General Virus Precautions Practiced by the VHJSD:

- Students and staff have been told and will be constantly reminded to stay home when sick. Staff members conduct daily screening.
- Students and Staff will continuously be reminded to frequently wash their hands.

- The wearing of masks/face shields will be required for students and staff when indoors and outdoors when 6 feet of space cannot be maintained. This requirement is in place unless a student or staff member provides a written medical exclusion to this requirement. Students should plan to provide their own masks/face shield. However, in the event they do not have one, one will be provided.
- Parents should take student temperatures daily. If a temperature is recorded above 100 degrees the student should stay home.
- School staff will be conducting daily temperature checks for students and staff.
- Each school site will have a separate quarantine room for any student displaying symptoms of the virus.
- If any student is confirmed to have the virus the entire school community will be notified and the County Health Officer will direct next steps for that respective student population.

VHJSD Reopening Schedule Plan:

- VHJSD will utilize a hybrid return to school schedule. Because we have some classes small enough to allow for 6 feet of space between all desks (currently first, third, fifth and sixth grades) those students will meet daily, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Larger classes that cannot maintain that distance with all students (kinder, second, and fourth) will need to return on a split schedule, with half attending in person on Monday/Tuesday and half attending on Thursday/Friday. Wednesday will be Distance Learning for all, which will allow for deep-cleaning and sanitation. Every day, Monday through Friday, will start with an hour of distance learning for those who are not attending that day, either because of their cohort or their decision to remain on distance learning. On the days that K, 2, and 4th grade students do not attend school they will participate in off-site instruction by completing work at home that has been assigned by their teacher of record. This process will allow our teachers to continue sequential and properly paced instruction. This hybrid plan will allow us to maintain 6 feet of social distancing in all areas of school attendance.

Cleaning and Disinfection: How shared surfaces will be regularly cleaned and disinfected and how use of shared items will be minimized.

- Desks will be spaced to allow for six feet of distance between students and staff.
- All desks will face the same direction.
- Custodians will routinely clean frequently touched areas.
- Hand sanitizer will be available in all instructional areas.
- Staff will be provided with sanitation kits that include cleaning and disinfecting supplies (i.e. gloves, disinfecting solution, wipes and paper towels).
- Tissues will be available within each classroom. Any student displaying signs of sickness will be immediately referred to the school site nursing station for assessment.

- The afternoon custodian will deep clean each school site on a daily basis. This cleaning will be consistent with the established protocols.
- Students will engage in frequent handwashing.

☒ **Cohorting:** How students will be kept in small, stable, groups with fixed membership that stay together for all activities (*e.g.*, instruction, lunch, recess) and minimize/avoid contact with other groups or individuals who are not part of the cohort.

Transportation Cohorting Protocols

- Bus loading and unloading will be organized to limit student mixing and passing.
- Students will be required to sanitize their hands and have their temperature checked upon entering the bus.
- Masks/Face Shields will be required upon entry on the bus.
- Social distancing will be enforced.

Classroom Cohorting Protocols

- Classroom cohorts will be limited to allow for social distancing.
- Desks will be spaced to allow for six feet of distance between students and staff.
- All desks will face the same direction.
- Staff and students will meet in the same classroom every day.
- Students will be assigned seating and maintain their own school supplies. No sharing of materials and supplies.
- Sinks for handwashing and hand sanitizer will be available in all instructional areas.

Cafeteria Cohorting Protocols

- Lunchtime schedules will be staggered to reduce the number of students being served at one time.
- Tables will be available both inside and outside as weather and conditions permit.
- Students will maintain social distancing while eating.
- Staff and students will not be allowed to share/touch each other's food.

Restroom Cohorting Protocols

- All restrooms will be routinely checked by staff for cleanliness, sanitation and appropriate supplies.
- Students will be frequently reminded of the need to social distance and of the need to wash their hands.

Recess Cohorting Protocols

- Students will be reminded of social distance practices.
- Each class will be instructed that their play needs to be within a prescribed area to limit social mixing of classes.
- Use of balls and equipment will be limited to single classrooms.

- All students will return to class in a scheduled fashion to limit hallway and entry congestion.
- All students will be required to wash or sanitize hands before reentry into the classroom.

Entrance, Egress, and Movement Within the School: How movement of students, staff, and parents will be managed to avoid close contact and/or mixing of cohorts.

- No outside or parent classroom volunteers will be allowed until the County Health Officer approves their participation.
- All adults checking-in or picking up a student must wear a mask and maintain social distance.
- Staff will take steps to reduce traffic at drop-off and pick-up locations.
- Staff will navigate the campus with the prescribed virus precautions previously described.
- Students will be monitored by staff before school to ensure adherence to the previous described protocols.
- Students will line up in a scheduled fashion with their respective class to enter any indoor instructional area.
- Students will only move with their respective class to visit the cafeteria. Social distancing will be maintained during the travel between instructional areas.

Face Coverings and Other Essential Protective Gear: How CDPH's face covering requirements will be satisfied and enforced.

- The VHJSD student conduct code will be enforced at all times. Masks or face shields will be required by all unless a medical exclusion note is on file. Students not following this requirement will be sent home and parent notified.
- Masks or face shields will be required by all staff unless a medical exclusion note is on file.

Health Screenings for Students and Staff: How students and staff will be screened for symptoms of COVID-19 and how ill students or staff will be separated from others and sent home immediately.

- Parents should take student temperatures daily. If a temperature is recorded above 100 degrees the student should stay home.
- Any staff member that is symptomatic of the virus including a temperature above 100 degrees should remain home and contact their immediate supervisor.
- Staff will conduct daily temperature checks for all students upon arrival.
- Each school site will have a separate quarantine room for any student or staff displaying symptoms of the virus. Students and/or staff displaying a temperature or symptoms of the virus will be contained to the quarantine room until they can be safely released from campus. The quarantine room will receive immediate deep cleaning after use.

- If any student or staff member is confirmed to have the virus the entire school community will be notified and the County Health Officer will direct next steps for that respective student population.

Healthy Hygiene Practices: The availability of handwashing stations and hand sanitizer, and how their use will be promoted and incorporated into routines.

- Signage will be prominently displayed at all sites reminding individuals of proper virus safety protocols.
- Students will frequently be reminded of virus safety protocols.
- Hand washing sinks are available in all classrooms and will be utilized multiple times per day.
- Hand sanitizing stations will be available in all instructional areas and bathrooms.
- Students and staff will be required to sanitize their hands before entering any indoor instructional area.

Identification and Tracing of Contacts: Actions that staff will take when there is a confirmed case. Confirm that the school(s) have designated staff persons to support contact tracing, such as creation and submission of lists of exposed students and staff to the local health department and notification of exposed persons. Each school must designate a person for the local health department to contact about COVID-19.

- Upon a confirmed case of the virus the County Public Health Office will be notified immediately.
- The Superintendent of the VHJSD will oversee the all aspects of a school site response to a confirmed case of the virus.
- Administrative staff at each school site will support contact tracing.
- School Contacts are:
K-3 Campus, Kristin Lovejoy 209-847-0117 ext. 100
4-8 Campus, Michelle Alves 209-847-0117 ext. 210

Physical Distancing: How space and routines will be arranged to allow for physical distancing of students and staff.

- The VHJSD will utilize all the protocols listed above to maintain a social distance of 6 feet between all students and staff whenever possible and practical.
- The VHJSD is utilizing the hybrid return to school model to split large classrooms in one-half to support cohorting and social distancing requirements.

Staff Training and Family Education: How staff will be trained, and families will be educated, on the application and enforcement of the plan.

- Safety procedure and protocols will be prominently displayed in all classrooms.

- All staff will receive on-site training on the specifics of this application.
- All staff will complete the Target Solutions COVID-19 and Haz-Mat training.
- The VHJSD website and social media accounts will be utilized to communicate the specifics of this application to all stakeholders.

Testing of Students and Staff: How school officials will ensure that students and staff who have symptoms of COVID-19 or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 will be rapidly tested and what instructions they will be given while waiting for test results. Describe how staff will be tested periodically to detect asymptomatic infections.

- VHJSD will participate in staff testing under the county-wide testing initiative being coordinated by the Stanislaus County Office of Education.
- The Superintendent of the VHJSD will ensure that students and staff are quickly and safely removed from the school setting if they show symptoms of the virus.
- The Superintendent will coordinate the actions of our staff regarding testing and periods of quarantine. The Superintendent will also coordinate all return to work stipulations
- Respective School Administrative Assistants will coordinate the actions of students regarding testing, periods of quarantine, and any return to school stipulations for students.

Triggers for Switching to Distance Learning: The criteria the superintendent will use to determine when to physically close the school and prohibit in-person instruction.

- A classroom will stop in-person instruction if there is a confirmed case within any cohort in that classroom.
- Entire individual school buildings will close in-person instruction when there are confirmed cases in multiple (2 or more) classroom cohorts.
- The entire VHJSD will close to in-person elementary instruction more than 5% of our population is positive, or if there are multiple cases in multiple (3 or more) cohorts. This will be done in consultation with the Stanislaus County Public Health Office.
- Any COVID testing results that moves Stanislaus County out of two or more of the testing tolerances listed below would trigger the VHJSD to move back to Distance Learning. This action would of course be executed in conjunction with the recommendation of the County Public Health Officer.

1. Greater than 200 cases per 100,000 of population for over 14 consecutive days.
2. Positive virus test rate greater than 8% over the previous 7 days.
3. Greater than 10% increase of COVID hospitalizations over previous 3 days.
4. Under 20% of Stanislaus County ICU beds are available.

Communication Plans: How the superintendent will communicate with students, staff,

and parents about cases and exposures at the school, consistent with privacy requirements such as FERPA and HIPAA. Please specifically refer to 34 CFR § 99.3

- In coordination with the County Public Health Officer, the VHJSD will use our website, email and district phone messaging system to immediately communicate to affected stakeholders of potential virus exposures. This communication will be consistent with legal counsel guidance regarding the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.
- The Injury/Illness Prevention Plan (IIPP), a guide for maintaining safe school, structures and buildings has been updated to include protocols and procedures to implement when there is a pandemic or like situation (i.e. COVID-19). This policy will be utilized for the protection of employees, sub-contractors, students, vendors, and any other persons performing essential work at school district sites.