



# TOP 5 THINGS TO KNOW

## ABOUT THE STATE'S MARCH 2021 COVID-19 SCHOOL GUIDANCE

On **March 20th**, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) issued another revision to its [COVID-19 guidance for schools](#). While often confusing when layered over past guidance, these are the **top five things to know**.

1

### Maximize Space Between Seating and Desks

"Distance **teacher and other staff desks at least 6 feet** away from student and other staff desks. Maintaining a **minimum of 3 feet between student chairs is strongly recommended**. A range of physical distancing recommendations have been made nationally and internationally, from 3 feet to 6 feet." Where distancing is at the lower end of this range, high mask compliance and enhancing other mitigation layers, such as ventilation and stable groups, should be considered. See *Classroom Space* section.

2

### Use of a Hybrid Model is Permitted; Full Reopening Not Required

"Open for in-person instruction" is defined as a school giving "all students in at least one grade **the option** to return for at least part of the school week... This includes the option of in-person instruction for only certain days during the week (commonly referred to as a "hybrid" model)." *Definitions* section.

3

### <25 Adjusted Case Rate to Open for In-Person Instruction

Schools may open for in-person instruction for **all grades** (TK-12) in the Purple Tier when the adjusted case rate is less than 25 per 100,000 people per day **but are not required to do so**. All schools must post a COVID-19 Safety Plan before opening. Schools in the Purple Tier must submit their plans to their local health officer and the State Safe Schools for All Team. *Criteria to Reopen for In-Person Instruction* section.

4

### COVID Safety Plan, Posting, and Directives on Reporting

**All schools** must complete and post a COVID-19 Safety Plan (CSP) to their website homepage prior to reopening for in-person instruction.

**Every LEA** must promptly notify the local health officer of any known case of a student or employee with COVID-19 who was on a K-12 campus within ten days prior to testing positive.

**Every LEA** must update the CDPH on how it is teaching by grade level, indicating full or part-time (hybrid) in-person instruction, in cohorts, or distance learning only.

5

### Enforcement

Engage in site and chapter-based advocacy, as outlined in CTA's [Safe & Stable Return to In-Person Instruction Toolkit](#). Immediately report safety concerns and organize so hazards are quickly addressed by the employer. In addition:

- Call the **School COVID Hotline** (833-422-4255; M-F 8AM-8PM, Sa-Su 8AM-5PM), or
- [File a report](#) with the State Safe Schools for All Team.
- Enforce all collectively bargained agreements and district safety policies.
- In consultation with your CTA staff person, consider filing a Cal/OSHA complaint.

For more information, visit the [State Safe Schools for All Hub](#) and [CTA.org/C4OB](#). And as always, consult with your local CTA Primary Contact staff person for specific assistance.