

Waiver Request for General Shafter School

Our main goal is to meet the needs of each family regarding the safety and comfort level of each child for the coming school year. That looks different for every family, but we are committed to providing options to meet those needs. For families who favor in-person instruction, we will move forward with this mode of teaching if this waiver is approved. For families who prefer distance learning for part or all the school year, we will provide distance learning that will continue even when others return to the building.

Background Information

Name of Applicant (Local Educational Agency or Equivalent): **General Shafter School District**

School Type:

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

Number of Schools: 1

Enrollment: 115

Superintendent (or equivalent) Name: Chris R. Salvards

Address: 1825 Shafter Road
Bakersfield, CA 93313

Grades Proposed to be Reopened:

Kindergarten 19 – Classroom 1 = 9 Classroom 2 = 9

1st Grade 14

2nd Grade 18

3rd Grade 23 – Classroom 1 = 12 Classroom 2 = 11

4th Grade 19 – Classroom 1 = 10 Classroom 2 = 9

5th Grade 22 – Classroom 1 = 11 Classroom 2 = 11

Date of Proposed Reopening: September 14, 2020

Name of Person Completing Application: Chris R. Salvards

Phone Number: 661-837-1931 Ext. 104 Email: chriss@generalshafter.org

Signature: 

Date: 8/31/2020

I. Consultation

Please confirm the consultation with the following groups:

Name of Organization (s) and Date(s) Consulted: General Shafter Teachers Association Meeting Date: August 25, 2020

School staff was consulted regarding their interest and willingness to conduct in-person instruction. Staff was in favor and committed to providing In-Person instruction to our student population that would choose In-Person instruction and continue to provide services to those students to opted for Distance Learning.

Name of Organization (s) and Date(s) Consulted: General Shafter Community Club Meeting Date: August 26, 2020

Parents: Parents were sent a survey (7/17/2020) requesting their interest in In-erson instruction vs Distance Learning or a Hybrid of both. On August 26th we met with the General Shafter Community Club. Parents have requested the following options, those requesting distance learning will also be accommodated using a hybrid consisting of a distance learning platform (Google Classroom, Zoom and some actual recorded class instruction.

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, have been published on the website of the local educational agency (or equivalent):

Cleaning and Disinfection:

- Teachers will keep each child's belongings separated and in an individually labeled storage container, cubby or other area.
- Custodial staff will sanitize all classroom work surfaces, chairs, manipulatives and other frequently touched items twice a day, and as needed.
- High touch areas of playground structures will be sanitized at the end of each day. This will include climbing structures and swings, as well as outside tables and benches. Playground balls and other portable play equipment will also be sanitized daily or as needed.
- Student/teacher restrooms will be cleaned/sanitized daily or more often, as needed.
- Custodial staff will sanitize designated children's rugs daily; rugs will be laundered weekly.

- In addition to weekly deep cleaning of all surfaces using hospital grade disinfectants, our janitorial staff will, biweekly, use a commercial grade ozone generator (weekend use only) to further disinfect and sanitize all surfaces and materials in the building.
- **Cohorting:**
- Class sizes are kept small enough so that social distancing of 6' can be maintained in the classroom. Each child will work at a desk.
 - Students will be kept in small, stable groups which will consist of their classmates only, they will stay together during instruction, lunch and recess. Each grade will eat lunch in their classrooms Each grade will be contained in a separate classroom. Children will be allowed restroom use one child at a time.
- **Entrance, Egress, and Movement within the School:**
- Children will enter through the main entry and go directly to their separate cohort workstations. In the event that more than one child at a time will be checking in at the entrance, children will wait their turn for entry by standing on a designated "X" marked on the pavement (marked at 6' intervals). Parents will be asked to stay in their cars during morning drop-off, and asked not to leave the parking lot until given the go-ahead indicating that their child has passed the temperature and health inspection. Parents will also be asked to stay in their cars when arriving to pick up their child. (Please see attached map.)
 - In the event of a failed screening, the parent/caregiver, who will be waiting in the car while the health check is conducted, will be notified, and asked to take the child home.
 - Children are encouraged to work independently and keep their distance in the classroom. Occasional passing by another child's workspace may be conducted at a safe distance to pick up or drop off work. Children will be wearing face masks or shields while during their in-classroom work.
- **Face Coverings and Other Essential Protective Gear:**
- Teachers will receive instruction on how to wear masks. They will be required to wear masks while indoors (excluding breaks and lunch). They may wear face shields, when at a distance of at least 6 feet, when delivering certain English lessons or are reading to the class.
 - Teachers will provide instruction to children on the proper way to don, wear, and remove their masks
 - Teachers will encourage 1st and 2nd grade are highly encouraged to wear a face covering but may use a face shield in lieu of the face covering if there cannot be a perfect seal to the child's face.
 - Teachers will enforce the wearing of face masks or shields for 3rd through 5th grade children. If children are unable to wear a mask due to health reasons, it must be documented by a doctor and on their health card. If children in this

grade range refuse to wear a mask or shield (and have no underlying health reasons to prevent the wearing), their caregiver will be notified and asked to pick them up.

- Children in grades 3 and above (and lower if requested), will be provided face masks if they arrive at school without one
- Children will be exempt from wearing face masks during outdoor play while maintaining 6' distancing during activities. Masks will be stored on wall hooks by the outdoor exit during outdoor playtime. Children will maintain 6' social distance while exiting and re-entering the school.
- There will be at least a 2-month supply of masks and shields available for both students and staff.
- Sneeze guards will be in place at tables where two children may be seated for short periods of time.
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□ **Health Screenings for Students and Staff:**

- Procedures for daily self-screening for all staff before beginning work will be followed. This will include a temperature check with a no-touch thermometer, and a staff or self-check for COVID-19 symptoms, before entering building.
- Teachers/staff will conduct a visual wellness check of all children upon arrival and ask health questions when concerned. Health questions that will be asked are, have you experienced:
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - Chills, or repeated shaking with chills
 - Fatigue (maybe say "tiredness" for children)
 - Muscle pain
 - Headache
 - Sore throat
 - Congestion or runny nose
 - Nausea or vomiting
 - Diarrhea
 - (new) loss of taste or smell
 - Has anyone in your household tested positive or experienced symptoms for COVID-19 in the past 2 weeks
- Teachers/staff will take temperature of every person entering the building with a no-touch thermometer (A person with a temperature of 100.4 degrees or higher will not be allowed into the building) and ask health questions (as stated above) regarding COVID-19 symptoms.
- Teachers/staff will self-monitor, monitor each other and the children throughout the day for signs of possible illness. If child exhibits signs of illness, the child will be isolated from the general classroom, and the caregiver will be immediately notified to pick up the child. (Isolation will be in a remote section

of the classroom, or the end non-traffic section of the hallway.) If teacher/staff exhibits signs of illness, they will go home.

- The staff restroom will be set aside for the sole use of an isolated child or staff member while waiting to be picked up.
- In the event that two or more children become sick, isolation would take place in remote sections of the classroom and the end of the hallway, which is not a traffic area.

□ **Healthy Hygiene Practices:**

- Hand washing stations are in the main classroom (designated for grades TK-K), all other handwashing stations are near classrooms on the way to the playground. We have 8 restrooms for student use. Hand sanitizer stations are located at the main entrance to the building, the exit door for the playground and in all the classrooms. Frequent handwashing and the sanitizing of manipulatives and other classroom materials have always been a strong part of the education culture and its daily routine. Normal cleaning routines will be further enhanced with children sanitizing their hands when they enter the building, and either washing or sanitizing their hands before and after meals, after returning from the playground, after using the restroom, and when otherwise deemed necessary. Teachers will create and develop scripted stories around hand washing, proper etiquette for sneezes, coughs, etc., as well as social distancing, and other health practices.

□ **Identification and Tracing of Contacts:**

- In the event of a confirmed case of COVID-19, the school director (designated reporting person), will immediately notify the Kern County public health department. Contacts of that person will be identified, quarantined, and excluded from class. (A contact is defined by the CDPH as a person who is less than six feet from a case for more than 15 minutes.) The school families will be notified by the director, or the head teacher, in her absence, as to the confirmed case, while maintaining anonymity of the case, and the action that will be taken. Contacts will be encouraged to get tested. Depending on the sphere of exposure, the entire cohort may be quarantined. Per CDPH instructions, the director, or principal, will also create and submit a list of the exposed students and staff to the Kern County Health Department of exposed individuals for tracing purposes and notification.
- Students identified as a contact will be provided distance learning materials and access to on-line instruction.
- Testing will be encouraged when experiencing new symptoms during quarantine period.

□ **Physical Distancing:**

- Ensure physical distancing by placing worktables 6' apart, in assigned seating.

- Encourage children to work independently and maintain social distance.
 - Ensure physical distancing, as much as possible, on the playground.
- **Staff Training and Family Education:**
- Staff has been trained and educated on COVID-19 symptoms, disinfecting procedures, precautions, wearing of masks, etc, with email communications with articles, public health guidance issuances and informational staff meetings and discussions on the subject.
 - If staff determines a child does not look well, they will immediately notify the family and the director. If the director is not available, the head teacher will be notified, as well as the admin staff at the main campus.
 - Families have been kept in the loop with information on steps and precautions that we, as a school and staff, are taking, as well as what our expectations are of the parents who entrust their children to us.
 - Teachers will be subject to unannounced visits by the director to ensure compliance with COVID19 precautions and guidance.
 - The Reopening Guide and other communiques will be updated on a regular basis. CDC and CDPH guidance have emerged or been updated since the writing of the handbook. It will be updated prior to the start of the school year to ensure compliance with both CDC and CDPH. Dissemination will include both parents and staff.
- **Testing of Students and Staff:**
- Students/student families and staff will be encouraged to be tested if they have symptoms of COVID-19 or have been exposed to someone with the virus. We will require quarantining for 14 days, regardless of whether they agree to the test. Staff will be tested at Good Samaritan Hospital 901 Olive Drive, Bakersfield, California 93308. This test will be available to all teachers and staff monthly, and more often if the teacher or staff member believes he or she has been in contact with an infected person. Further, if any cost occurs due to testing, they will be paid for by General Shafter School District.
- **Triggers for Switching to Distance Learning:**
- The trigger for switching to distance learning could be a county or state mandate, or it could be determined based on confirmed cases of COVID-19 at the school. If 5% is the determining number of cases, my school would need only 8 - 9 confirmed cases at the school to close it down and require the students and staff to quarantine. If this is the case, my teachers are prepared to go into a distance learning mode, whether from the school or from home.

☐ **Communication Plans:**

- The Director will communicate with Kern County Public Health school families and staff when someone in the cohort tests positive via emails, texts, and/or phone calls. If the Superintendent is not available, the principal will provide these communications. Postings on the front entrance to the school would also be used.

COVID-19 POLICY

While General Shafter School have always placed a strong emphasis on a clean environment, good hygiene and frequent handwashing, we are placing an even stronger emphasis on cleanliness, more frequent handwashing and now, wearing face masks or shields, as appropriate, and social distancing, to prevent the spread of COVID-19. To this end, the following are the steps that we are taking to stay as safe and healthy as we can

☐ **SCHOOL REOPENING GUIDELINES:**

- Ensure proper ventilation of the building, i.e. airing of classrooms before children arrive
- Implement procedures to frequently clean all frequently touched surfaces
- Follow procedures for daily self-screening for all staff before beginning work including having temperature taken with a no-touch thermometer
- Conduct a visual wellness check of all children upon arrival and ask health questions when concerned
- Take temperature of each person entering the building with a no-touch thermometer (A person with a temperature of 100.4 degrees or higher will not be allowed into the building)
- Ensure children sanitize their hands on entering the building
- Monitor staff and children throughout the day for signs of possible illness. If child exhibits signs of illness, the child will be isolated from the general classroom, and the caregiver will be immediately notified to pick up the child

☐ **TEACHERS WILL:**

- Wear masks/face shields during the day while indoors (excluding breaks and lunch)
- Encourage children to wear face masks. Parent/caregiver of children refusing to wear a mask or face shield will be notified to pick children up and take them home.
- Teachers will provide additional instruction (from instruction the parents have provided) on the proper donning, wearing, and removing of masks
- Keep each child's belongings separated and in an individually labeled storage container, cubby, or other area
- Sanitize all classroom work surfaces, chairs, manipulatives, and other frequently touched items twice a day, and as needed
- Ensure children wash/sanitize hands before snacks and lunch, after returning from the playground, after using the restroom, and when deemed necessary

- Ensure social distancing in the classroom by placing tables 6' apart
- Encourage children to work independently and maintain social distance
- Ensure social distancing, as much as possible, on the playground
- Create and develop a scripted story around social distancing, as well as handwashing, proper etiquette for sneezes, coughs, etc.

□ **PARENTS/GUARDIANS WILL:**

- Provide a washable cloth mask for their child to wear, with a spare included in their backpack (Children 2nd grade and under are not required to wear masks, however, they are strongly encouraged to do so); instruct children on the correct way to put on, wear, and remove their masks;
- Provide a clean mask daily for children who are wearing them
- Provide a filled water bottle for their child daily
- Wash their own hands and assist in washing their child's hands before drop-off. Parents are also encouraged to wash their hands prior to pick-up, and when they get home
- Provide a bag or backpack for all personal items, e.g. lunch box, water bottle, etc. to be transported to and from school daily.
- Wash/clean personal items daily
- Make visits as brief as possible.

□ **Additional safety measures we are implementing within the classroom**

- Students will have individual supplies including clipboards, dry erase boards, glue sticks, scissors, pencils, markers etc. Some of these supplies will be brought in by the student and some will be provided by the school. Please see the attached supply lists.
- Students will have individual workspaces or two-person tables with acrylic sneeze guards placed in the center.
- Students will each have an individual rug that will be sanitized every day and washed every week. The rugs will be stored separately rather than in big baskets.
- Spaces will be marked on the floor to help the children distance appropriately for morning circle, standing in line etc.
- We will have two cohorts (stable group with fixed membership that stays together for all courses and activities including recess and lunch) designated by classroom: a lower elementary cohort and an upper elementary cohort.
- Students will follow a hand cleaning routine of sanitizing/washing hands after they put a work material away and/or before they select a new work material.
- Lessons will be given in small groups or individually with appropriate distancing measures put in place.

Distance Learning in the Event of Closure Due to COVID-19 or another Emergency

During an unforeseen school closure, General Shafter School will continue to hold classes via distance learning. Parents can expect a combination of take-home packets (picked up at a pre-arranged time at the school) along with instruction via a distance learning platform called Google Classroom. Since Google Classroom is not “live” instruction, the lessons can be viewed at a time that is compatible for the child and his or her parents (if parent involvement is needed or desired). For students in the upper elementary class, other distance learning platforms may be included. Most items that will be needed for lessons will be contained in the take-home packets. If there is a need for additional supplies, it is usually something as simple as paper, scissors or crayons.

COVID Response Plan

The chart on the following page outlines measures that will be taken when a student, teacher or staff member has symptoms, is a contact of someone infected, or is diagnosed with COVID-19. Information on this chart is copied from a chart published by the California Department of Public Health.

Recommendations from the California Department of Public Health

www.cdph.ca.gov

What measures should be taken when a student, teacher or staff member has symptoms, is in contact with someone infected, or is diagnosed with COVID-19?

Student or staff with:	Action	Communication
1. COVID-19 Symptoms (e.g. fever, cough, loss of taste and smell, difficulty breathing) Symptom Screenings: Per CA School Sector Specific Guidelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Send home • Recommend testing (If positive, see #3, if negative, see #4) • School/classroom remain open 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No action needed
2. Close contact (+) with a confirmed COVID-19 case	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Send home • Quarantine for 14 days from last exposure • Recommend testing (but <u>will not</u> shorten 14-day quarantine) • School/classroom remain open 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider school community notification of a known contact
3. Confirmed COVID-19 case infection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notify the local public health department • Isolate case and exclude from school for 10 days from symptom onset or test date • Identify contacts (+), quarantine and exclude exposed contacts (likely entire cohort (++)) for 14 days after the last date the case was present at school while infectious • Recommend testing of contacts, prioritize symptomatic contacts (but will not shorten 14-day quarantine) • Disinfection and cleaning of classroom and primary spaces where case spent significant time • School remains open for non-infected cohort 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School community notification of a known case
4. Test negative after symptoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May return to school 3 days after symptoms resolve • School/classroom remain open 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider school community notification if prior awareness of testing.

(+) A **contact** is defined as a person who is less than six feet from a case for more than 15 minutes.(++) A **cohort** is a stable group with fixed membership that stays together for all courses and activities including lunch and recess and avoids contact with other persons or cohorts. **HME will have a lower elementary cohort and an upper elementary cohort.**

Additional Resources:

CDPH and Cal/OSHA Guidance for Schools and School-Based Programs

<https://files.covid19.ca.gov/pdf/guidance-schools.pdf>

California Department of Education Stronger Together: A Guidebook for the Safe Reopening of California's Public Schools

<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/he/hn/strongertogether.asp>

CDPH COVID-19 and Reopening In-Person Learning Framework for K-12 Schools in California, 2020-2021 School Year

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/CDPH%20Document%20Library/COVID-19/Schools%20Reopening%20Recommendations.pdf>

PARKING/PICK- UP & DROP OFF REFERENCE MAP

SHAFTER ROAD

