
CALIENTE UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Applicant name: Caliente Union School District

School type: Traditional Public School

Number of schools: 1 school

Enrollment: 53 students

Superintendent: Alan Gonzalez

12400 Caliente Creek Rd. Caliente, Ca. 93518

Serving grades: K, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6,

Date of reopening: October 5, 2020

Name of person completing application: Alan Gonzalez

661-867-2301

Email: agonzalez@calienteschooldistrict.org

Signature: Alan Gonzalez **Date:** 8/31/2020

I. Consultation

Please confirm the consultation with the following groups:

Labor Organization

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

CUSD has no organizations or labor unions. Staff and board members had consulted on July 8, 2020 and agreed to reopen school on October 5, 2020. Our staff have been continuously working in the classrooms and on campus to prepare for the upcoming school year. All staff members have met with administration and would like to resume in person classes.

Parent and Community Organizations

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

The school site council and parent teacher committee consulted and agreed to reopen school on October 5, 2020. All parents of students enrolled have been consulted and all parents would like to return to in person instruction on October 5, 2020.

Parents/guardians have been given written instructions as to all guidelines we will be operating under. Parents/guardians will also be given a copy of the waiver application upon approval.

II. Elementary School Reopening Plans

Piute Mountain School is located in a rural community at 12400 Caliente Creek Rd.

Caliente, Ca. 93518

Superintendent: Alan Gonzalez

Upon approval of reopening of Piute Mountain School the website will have our site plan posted according to CDPH guidelines.

Cleaning and disinfection: all desks, tables, chairs, and floors will be cleaned routinely, as well as deep cleaning of all hand rails, lunch tables, sports equipment, door knobs, toys, etc.... at the close of school each day. Students will each have their own personal box of school supplies. There will be no sharing of any items. There is currently no drinking water at the school district, so students will use their own water bottles. All students will be provided with a grab-n-go meal during lunch time and will eat outside and 6 feet apart from one another. Students will not bring their back pack or any items from home. Bathrooms will be cleaned and sanitized throughout the day as well as deep cleaning at the end of each school day. Should a positive case be identified the classroom affected will be closed for 24 hours. Proper PPE will be used by a staff member who is cleaning this space.

When a student or staff member becomes ill: When a student or staff member develops any symptoms of illness consistent with COVID-19 at the school:

- Isolation of that individual will occur in a separate room while they wait to be picked up. Ensure that they have hygiene supplies available, including a disposable face mask, facial tissues, and alcohol-based hand rub.
- Remind staff who are monitoring the student or staff member with symptoms to wear a disposable face mask and practice social distancing. Close off the space used for isolation after the ill person leaves. Wait 24 hours before you clean or disinfect. If 24 hours is not feasible, wait as long as possible. Open outside doors and windows and use ventilating fans to increase air circulation in the area.
- Open the space for use after proper cleaning and disinfecting.

- Clean and disinfect all areas used by the person who is sick, such as high-touch surfaces, and items they have touched (e.g., individual desk, cot, recently used toys, shared equipment).
- Wear gloves when cleaning and wash hands after removing gloves.

Cohorting: Students will be in their own classroom for all activities. We will refer to each class as a pod. Each pod will consist of approximately 10-14 children. There will be assigned seating for each student in their classroom. They will be with their teacher for all activities indoors and outdoors. Recess times will be staggered and the use of two playground areas will be put in place. Social distancing will be implemented at all times. When weather allows, more students will be outdoors at one time in different areas. Staff will be using two-way radios to communicate so we can avoid things such as two students in the restroom at one time. All events such as back-to-school night, outdoor recreation day, awards assemblies, and activities with other small school districts have been postponed or cancelled so there are no large gatherings during this time.

Entrance, egress, and movement within the school: Students will be dropped off in front of the school in the roundabout bus loading zone. Their teacher will keep them socially distanced in their pod. All parents have been informed that they will not be allowed to enter the school building where student's classrooms are located.

Parents/guardians will be allowed to enter in the office area with a mask to make any updates or obtain any information for their student. Each classroom is located in a different direction on campus, so each grade level will walk in a different direction when

going and leaving class. We have placed colorful X's that state social distancing (6 feet apart). These will be placed anywhere that we feel there will be need to social distance such as entries and sidewalks. Students/parents have been asked to please follow the guidelines of social distancing. Students will be using the main entrance of campus and staff will be there to accept their students and go through the process of checking each student in. Signage has been posted at all entries of signs and symptoms.

Face coverings and other essential protective gear: in accordance with CDPH guidelines, student in grades K-2nd will be strongly encouraged to wear a face mask. If your child is unable to wear a mask, please make sure they are wearing a face shield and they will need to follow the social distancing rule of (6 feet apart) at all times. Grades 3rd and above will be required to wear a face mask. In the case where it is medically necessary, a student will be allowed to wear a face shield (such as asthma or other related health issues). This will be updated in students file (health card/portfolio) to reflect the need for a face shield versus mask. All staff will be required to wear a mask and washing hands before handling your mask. Place mask on your face and please keep mask on at all times. If you are wearing a disposable mask, please dispose of properly in the touchless trash can. If you are wearing a reusable mask, please remove and store in paper bag once you have left the building. All masks should be laundered before re-using. Staff will be allowed to wear a face shield if medically necessary and will be asked to follow social distancing guidelines. CUSD currently has a three-month supply of facemasks and face shields on hand in case a student or staff member arrives at school without proper PPE. Staff will be required to wear gloves when handling any food items or cleaning

supplies. We have resources available from different community sources to help with PPE if we are unable to obtain on our own.

Health screenings for students and staff: Each student's temperature will be taken and recorded before parents leave them onsite. Anyone displaying a temperature of 100.4 or above will not be admitted and will be asked to stay home for 48 hours to monitor for any symptoms of COVID-19. All staff have been instructed to take their temperature before coming to work. If the temperature or other signs of illness do not resolve within 24 hours, we would ask that the person/child be seen by their Doctor and/or be tested before returning to school. If a staff member is feeling ill, they can call in and we will have back-up plans for their class. Any student that falls ill during the school day will be separated from their pod and kept in a designated sick child area until a parent can arrive to pick them up. If your child becomes ill during the day such as a fever, flushed cheeks, general feeling of being unwell or exhibits any other signs of being unwell, or fails the health screening, the individual will be asked to wear a face mask and isolate in the designated isolation room. Any persons within six feet longer than fifteen minutes will also be removed from their pod and isolated until they can be picked up. They would be isolated from the pod and cared for by admin in a specific room designated for a sick child. The school has a designated space on campus that is not currently in use that is available to be used in the case of multiple staff/students needing to isolate at one time. If multiple staff/students are symptomatic/positive it will be reported to the Kern County Public Health Services Department @ 661-321-3000 immediately upon notifying parents. If the school had to be utilized, it would remain closed for a minimum of 24 hours and

then sanitized before re-entry. That child would be allowed to use the staff bathroom and sanitization would be don't after a 24 hour period. Bathrooms will be cleaned and sanitized on a regular basis throughout the day and each evening.

Healthy hygiene practices: Hand sanitizer units have been installed by each entrance including classrooms. Students will be encouraged to “rub hands together for roughly 20 seconds.” There are sinks located throughout the restrooms and students will be monitored for good handwashing skills. All staff and students will required to wash their hands using soap and water at each transition time, such as: upon arrival, lunch, recess etc. Students will also be taught to cover their coughs and sneezes. Students will be encouraged to keep their hands away from their face, mouth, and eyes.

Identification and tracing of contacts: The school has created an excel roster sheet of all students according to their pod. Each students' parents and the health department will be notified by Alan Gonzalez (Superintendent) if there is a positive case. Alan will take care of all necessary paperwork and phone calls (661) 867-2301. Once schools are reopened to at least some in-person instruction, it is recommended that surveillance testing be implemented based on the local disease trends. If epidemiological data indicates concern for increasing community transmission, schools should increase testing of staff to detect potential cases as lab testing capacity allows.

1. COVID-19 symptoms (e.g., fever, cough, loss of taste or smell, difficulty breathing)

Symptom screening: Per CA School Sector Specific Guidelines

- Send home

- Recommend testing (if positive, see #3, if negative, see #4)
- School/classroom remain open
- No action needed

2. Close contact (+) with a confirmed COVID-19 case

- Send home
- Quarantine for 14 days from last exposure
- Recommend testing (but will not shorten 14-day Quarantine)
- School/classroom remain open
- Consider school community notification of a known contact

3. Confirmed COVID-19 case infection

- 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
- School community notification of a known case

4. Tests negative after symptoms

- May return to school 3 days after symptoms resolve
- School/classroom remain open

- Consider school community notification if prior awareness of testing
- (+) A contact is defined as a person who is less than 6 feet from a case for greater than 15 minutes. In some school situations, it may be difficult to determine whether individuals have met this criterion and an entire cohort, classroom, or other group may need to be considered exposed, particularly if people have spent time together indoors.
- (++) A cohort is a stable group with fixed membership that stays together for all courses and activities (e.g., lunch, recess, etc.) and avoids contact with other persons or cohorts.

Guidance on school closure:

What are the criteria for closing a school?

Individual school closure is recommended based on the number of cases, the percentage of the teacher/students/staff that are positive for COVID-19, and following consultation with Local Health Officer. Individual school closure may be appropriate when there are multiple cases in multiple cohorts at a school or when at least 5 percent of the total number of teachers/student/staffs are cases within a 14-day period, depending on the size and physical layout of the school. The Local Health Officer may also determine school closure is warranted for other reasons, including results from public health investigation or other local epidemiological data.

If a school is closed for in-person learning, when may it reopen?

Schools may typically reopen after 14 days and the following have occurred:

- Cleaning and disinfection

- Public health investigation
- Consultation with the local public health department

All students with symptoms of COVID-19 must be tested; schools should conduct random student and staff testing to identify asymptomatic patients (important for children especially); and students from high-risk households should be offered testing more frequently. Students who have had a temperature or any other signs of illness in the past 24 hours will not be admitted until being fever free and symptom free for 24 hours without the use of medication.

Physical distancing: Students will be reminded of social distancing rules. Students will be at their own desk in their own space with a minimum of (6 feet apart). For younger students we have multicolored X's that are spaced on the floor for story time and small group teacher led activities. Teachers on campus have two classrooms to utilize with small class sizes, which allows for social distancing. Two-way radios will be used to communicate with the office or other staff members. This will be the same protocol if a student(s) needs to use the restroom.

Staff training and family education: Staff have been instructed to follow CDC and CDPH guidelines as well as the guidelines set forth in this article. All staff members have received training on our back to school guidelines. Staff are aware of social distancing, staying in their pod, eating in their classrooms, and communication through two-way radios. All of this will help to ensure that each student and teacher has less exposure and if there is an exposure to COVID-19 that is will be more of an isolated event. Posters and

notices in regards to all COVID-19 related warnings and information have been posted throughout the facility. Handwashing instructions are posted at each handwashing station. Signs and symptoms posters are posted. There are (6 feet) social distancing stickers that have been placed at entries. Parents/guardians have been sent letters in regards to first day of school protocols and all of the guidelines that need to be followed to keep all staff and students well. Parents/guardians and students have been instructed to arrive at school wearing their masks and to keep them on while on school grounds. Parents/guardians and students will receive information on how to properly put on, take off, and wash face coverings safely.

Testing of students and staff: Parents/guardians will be instructed to contact their child's physician immediately if they have been exposed or if they have any symptoms of COVID-19. Temperatures are taken and wellness checks will be done before students/teachers are admitted into the building. Staff will be asked to contact their Doctor or go to the designated testing site located at Good Samaritan Hospital @ 901 Olive Dr. Bakersfield, CA. 93308. Their phone number is (661) 215-7725 and should get testing done ASAP. The teacher will not be allowed to return to in-person teaching until the teacher has clearance from the treating physician. Staff members will be on a rotating schedule on the first and third week of the month for prophylactic COVID-19 testing. Staff awaiting results for routine testing will be allowed to return to work while results are pending. All testing will be monitored and recorded through the office.

Triggers for switching to distance learning: CUSD will switch to distance learning for the pod that was affected if there is one positive case among staff or students in that pod. We would return to in-person classes after a two-week period of quarantine if no new cases have been reported. If there are two or more cases through-out the student body or staff, we would close the school and go to distance learning for a two-week period.

Communication plans: If we have a positive COVID-19 case, phone calls to parents/guardians will be made and they will be asked to pick up their student as quickly as possible and be given instructions on monitoring their child for COVID-19 symptoms and be given instructions on the distance learning. No messages will be left with personal information. We will also contact parents via e-mail if necessary. Parents/guardians have been instructed to give us a viable phone number for any type of emergency including approved additional emergency contacts. Each entrance will have COVID-19 related signage. Bathrooms/sinks will have handwashing instructions posted. In the event of a positive case of COVID-19, the school will report to the Kern County Public Health Services Department by calling (661) 321-3000. The school will follow all instructions given by the health department. Parents/guardians have received a detailed letter in regards to all first day instructions and will receive a copy of this waiver request.

Thank you for your consideration,

Alan Gonzalez, Ed.D.

