**Springville Union Elementary School District**

**Opening Plan Revised (ESSER III Assurances)**

**2021/2022**

**Opening School in the Fall:**

On June 5, 2021, Springville Parents and Staff were surveyed to gather information to assist with the decision making process of prior to students returning to Springville School on August 12, 2021. Survey results revealed 99% of parents wanted their students to return to In-person Instruction on the Springville School Campus. Staff percentage of return to campus for In-person Instruction was and continues to be 100%. Survey results regarding implementation of CDC, TCHHSA, and State Mandates requiring face coverings while inside of school buildings show that 30% of parents disagree with the mask mandate, however, will comply in order for their child/children to attend In-person Instruction. Parents were in agreement with continued cleaning procedures, disinfecting measures including fogging of buildings, and updated ventilation systems.

The Springville Union Elementary School District considers Student Safety a top priority. The District will make every effort to follow the Health and Safety Guidelines for Opening school in accordance with the Guidelines set forth by the CDC, CDPH, and TCHHSA to the extent that is Realistic and Practical for our District!

**Returning to School:** At this time, the District plans on starting back to school Thursday, August 12, 2021 with all students in attendance. Prior to the Re-Opening of school, Springville School Families will receive CDC and TCHHSA COVID-19 information along with expectations and protocols/procedures put in place pertaining to their child/children’s return to campus. Parents will receive school guidelines with directions to go over with their child/children including but not limited to: reporting absences, family health screening & temperature monitoring, social distancing, face coverings, cleaning & disinfecting protocols, arrival times, entering and exiting campus, school office protocols, school bus transportation and associated student seating protocol, personal vehicle transportation, late arrival and early pick-up procedures, parent/office communication for illness and student appointments, COVID-19 parent/school responsibilities, parent/teacher communication, recess/breakfast & lunch schedule changes, lunch pick-up and designated eating areas, classroom assignment, and protocols for transition back to Distance Learning should there be an outbreak of 5% or more of our campus with the COVID-19 virus. Campus entry, there will be three (3) points of entry for students to access the school grounds. One is by school bus where students will be dropped off in the bus unloading area. The Second entry gate is located at the drop-off and pick-up ramp in the school parking lot and the third entry is for students who walk to school located at the main gate near the marquee. To comply with social distancing and gathering guidelines, parents who choose to walk their students to their grade level areas are asked to refrain from gathering and talking to other parents in those grade level areas. Please take on-going conversations to an area away from student play areas.

Parent/teacher conferences will be held in person, phone or Zoom meetings. Parents and/or visitors will be allowed on campus to carry out school business. Should parents need to drop off or pick something up at the District Office, it is recommended parents/guardians call prior to visiting the office and/or call to make arrangements for late arrival or early departure of students.

Independent Study via Independent On-line Instruction options are available for students per parent request for one-time (3-5 days), limited (3 – 14 days), and long-term illness.

**Education:** The District will continue providing Rigorous Research Based academic instruction to all students with individualized support/small group opportunities daily, in order to meet the additional needs of English Language Learners, Foster Youth, Low Income, and Special Education students. All students have one to one access to technology and internet access has been provided to those students without previous access. Technology devices are currently assigned to each individual student and will remain on campus unless it becomes necessary to return to Independent On-line Instruction. Certificated/Classified Staff members will instruct, support, and encourage students to practice social distancing and good hygiene/cleanliness to lessen the spread of infectious diseases.

Should there be the need to close a classroom or the entire campus due to a COVID-19 outbreak of 5% or greater, the transition from In-Person instruction to Independent On-line Instruction should be seamless, based on the structured Instructional program already in place using Google Classroom & Seasaw platforms.

Professional Development/Training for staff will be on-going both on campus (with social distancing measures in place), off campus as provided, and via Zoom meetings. CDC and TCHHSA Guidelines will be reviewed, as well as, on-campus protocols including but not limited to face coverings, social distancing, cleaning and sanitizing, and illness monitoring. All Staff members yearly receive a variety of training opportunities through Keenan and Associates inclusive of Blood Borne Pathogens, Sexual Harassment, and Mandated Reporting. All Staff members have completed a one-time affirmation that ensures they are daily/regularly monitoring their own health and wellness and the health and wellness of their family’s and agree to stay home if they show signs of illness.

**Cleaning:**

All buildings/restrooms have been thoroughly cleaned, sanitized, and fogged with an approved binding/disinfectant agent. Subsequent cleaning will occur daily and at regular intervals as necessary, following each scheduled recess and lunch period. Custodial staff will monitor bathroom use and be available for additional cleaning and sanitizing as needed throughout the school day, as well as, all restrooms/classrooms will be cleaned and sanitized on a daily basis, and fogged as needed or required. Shared surfaces will be regularly cleaned and disinfected.

In addition, this method will also be used on school buses, play equipment, outdoor lunch tables, and seating areas after each use.

**Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):**

The District provides cloth and disposable face coverings, disposable gloves, and disposable protective gear to have on hand and available for staff and students as needed. Face Coverings will be required to enter campus/school using school bus transportation, while indoors in all school buildings, and areas were 6’ social distancing cannot be attained.

**Social Distancing Measures:**

Signage posted requires face coverings and limits one person to be served at a time with 6’ distancing labels outside of the office to encourage social distancing.

All Staff will adhere to mask mandate requirements and social distancing protocols including, grade level communication, sharing common work areas, and maintaining 3’ distancing during passing with the exception of documented medical conditions preventing said practice. E-mail, classroom phones, and zoom meetings are available to assist with teacher to teacher, teacher to parent communication.

**Testing:**

The District provides weekly antigen testing for all staff with testing availability for students are needed or requested.

**Illness:**

Parents have been notified of the opportunity to receive a Kinsa Thermometer, free of charge, for home use (supply is limited). Parents are encouraged to monitor their family’s temperature by taking school age children’s temperature prior to leaving the house for school.

Parents of students presenting symptoms and/or an elevated temperature during the school day will be called to pick their child up. Students will be held over in the nurse’s room until parents arrive. Students may return to school following 24 hours, fever/symptom free without the use of fever reducing medications.

Parents are asked to closely monitor illness in their home reminding them not to spread illnesses by sending their child to school or going to work with noticeable symptoms of any illness.

Should a student/staff member test positive for the COVID-19 virus, they will be required to isolate at home for a 14 day period. COVID-Tracing would be handled by the District Administrator and/or other designated staff members in conjunction with TCHHSA. Should you need assistance with how to seek medical care, please contact the office at 559-539-2605 or sus@ocsnet.net

Should a student/staff member test positive for the Corona Virus, they will be required to isolate at home for a 14 day period. COVID-Tracing would be handled by the District Administrator and/or other designated staff members in conjunction with TCHHSA.

If you have a cough, fever, sore throat, headache, shortness of breath, acute respiratory symptoms, loss of sense of taste/smell, chills (shivers), or have been exposed to anyone with a positive diagnosis for COVID-19, you must quarantine immediately for a 14 day time period or until you receive a physician’s clearance with a negative test result or a doctor’s not attesting that the employee is fit for duty and able to return to work and resume duties of their position. Notifying the office of contact/exposure and/or positive test results is imperative due to the mandate for District to proceed with Contact Tracing and Reporting Requirements by/to State and Local Health Officials. Should a staff member have symptoms while at work will be tested on-site and sent home to self-quarantine/isolate for 14 days if test is positive. Staff members having a positive test result not showing signs of illness will provide Instruction via Zoom with adult staff coverage provided for the classroom. Staff members who miss work due to the COVID-19 illness, who are unable to work, while at home, will be compensated for their sick time through available paid sick leave and/or other available means available through State programs or District measures. State COVID-19 leave funding ended September 2021. The District has made available one time COVID-19 funds for staff members who tested positive for or became ill with COVID-19 after the State funds ended.

Please be advised that should a staff member or student become ill while at school they will be immediately tested and sent home until illness is gone or 14 days have passed if test result is positive. If the illness is determined to be COVID-19 through a positive test result, TCHHSA will be contacted and provided information as required by their guidelines provided to our District. District Contact Tracing will determine the number of students/staff exposed and drive partial or complete school closure for a two week period (time may extend and will be determined on case by case basis). During partial or full school closure, On-line Independent Instruction will be on-going in Transitional Kindergarten through Eighth Grades for those grade level/levels affected.

**Contact Tracing Contacts/Steps:**

The District Superintendent/Principal, Connie Owens is the designated Contact Tracer for the Springville Union Elementary School District. In her absence, front desk office staff, who has also received the Contact Tracing Training, will act as Contract Tracer. Upon notification of a positive or suspected positive case, the District will begin contact tracing procedures, then contact the Tulare County Public Health Liaison and the Tulare County Office of Education Nurse to conduct follow-up procedures. The Administration will follow the course of action and appropriate steps required, as determined by the Tulare County Health Officials. The Administration will notify all families and/or employees who may have been affected by a COVID-19 exposure once contact tracing is complete.

**Assess** the Risk (Identify close contacts, create a spread sheet, decide on action)

**Identify** Close Contact Questions - (15 minute time period within 6’ with a confirmed case) (One or both parties wearing masks)

**Confirm** Location of Exposure (Entrance, Exit, School Bus, Classroom, Playground, Lunch Area)

**Prepare** a Risk Assessment Spreadsheet (Date) (High Risk, Low Risk) (PPE)(Time) (Distance)(Description)

**Exposure:**

High Risk Verification requires a 14 day quarantine period out of school

Low Risk individuals will monitor for symptoms and remain in school

**Actions to be taken when:**

Confirmed Positive Case (Isolate 10 days)

High Risk (Quarantine 14 days with negative test follow-up)

Low Risk (Monitor symptoms)

Should a student/staff member test positive for the Corona Virus, they will be required to quarantine at home for a 14 day period followed by a negative test follow-up.

**COVID-19 Exposure/Positive Test:**

Students and/or staff members will be sent home immediately and sent to test once they communicate that they have symptoms of COVID-19 and/or report that they have been exposed to COVID-19.

The community of Springville does not have a local testing facility. The closest neighboring town would be Porterville. They are: Family Healthcare Network

Open Monday – Friday 8:00am – 7:00pm and Saturday & Sunday 8am – 5pm.

They are located at 65 North Hockett Street and their phone number is

1-877-960-3426 and the Porterville Veteran’s Memorial Building open

Monday – Friday 7:00am – 7:00pm by appointment only. They are located at 1900 West Olive Avenue and their phone number is 1-888-634-1123.

Should and there be a notification of an exposure or positive case of COVID-19, the Superintendent/Principal will send notification via e-mail and/or hard copy to Springville School parents, of COVID-19 exposures and cases, keeping confidential, the names associated, in order to remain consistent with FERPA and HIPPA Privacy Requirements.

**School Bus Transportation:** Student’s are required to wear an approved face covering when entering and riding the school bus. As required, school bus fans will be running for circulation with windows open during transit for ventilation (unless wet weather prevents their opening). Assigned seating may be used with Siblings being seated together to assist with meeting social distancing guidelines. Students transported by bus will be dropped off in the bus unloading area. Buses will be disinfected at the end of each day and fogged using an ionization/fogger with approved disinfectant as needed or required.

**Meals:** Lunchtimes are staggered to limiting student numbers. Lunch meals will continue to be eaten outside, weather permitting with student seating on the grass eating area. Eating area will be based on weather conditions with students being accommodated in the cafeteria/ classrooms with social distancing protocols in place.

**Classrooms:** Classroom arrangements meet the current social distancing requirement in an effort to lessen the spread of infectious disease in all T/K – 8th grades.

**Classroom Transitioning:** Students will follow social distancing guidelines addressed by way of the re-arranging and placement of student work areas and individual student/teacher desks. Classrooms have been arranged to meet the six feet social distancing requirements. Movement within the classroom will be limited to entering and exiting. Students and staff will receive training and instructions, inclusive of the need for facial coverings, waiting in lines, exiting classrooms/buildings, social distancing, hand washing, and hand sanitizing. Hand sanitizer is located just inside every doorway in every building. New HVAC systems have been installed on every classroom to improve ventilation. Ventilation systems will remain on auto to ensure that air is constantly recirculating and filtering during the school day with classroom windows open to allow fresh air to circulate within each classroom.

Transitions to recess and/or lunch schedules will be limited by grade levels with social distancing practices in place.

**Financial Assistance:** CARES funding will be distributed to all Districts in accordance to their Title I revenues to help offset the additional costs associated with the COVID-19 Pandemic and its effects to the educational system.

These funds will be used to address individual school needs, provide training and professional development for staff regarding additional sanitizing and minimizing the spread of infectious diseases, purchase of supplies to sanitize and clean school areas, purchase of technology, provide mental health services and supports, and other activities and/or resources necessary to maintain operation of and continuity of services in local education agencies, as well as, continuing to employ existing staff of the District, and additional employment of support staff necessary to meet the needs of our T/K – 8th grade students.

**Staff Return:** All Staff, are reminded to pay particularly close attention to the one page/single time affirmation that ensures you are monitoring your health and are well. If not well, you agree to stay home until illness passes and you have no temperature/symptoms for 24 hours prior to return. If you have a cough, fever, sore throat, headache, shortness of breath, acute respiratory symptoms, loss of sense of taste/smell, chills (shivers), or have been exposed to anyone with a positive diagnosis for COVID-19, you must notify the Administrator, test, and quarantine/isolate immediately for a 14 day time period if positive or until you are symptom free if illness is other than COVID-19. Should you need assistance with how to seek medical care, please contact the office at 559-539-2605 or sus@ocsnet.net

Notifying the office of contact/exposure and/or positive test results is imperative due to the mandate for District to proceed with Contact Tracing and Reporting Requirements in conjunction with State and Local Health Officials. Should a staff member have symptoms while at work, they will be tested and sent home to self-quarantine/isolate. If not ill, the staff member will provide Independent On-line Instruction to their students from home with support staff monitoring students in attendance. Staff members who miss work due to the COVID-19 illness and are unable to work from home, will have a qualified substitute teacher form the Tulare County Substitute List and be compensated for their sick time through available paid sick leave and/or other available State or District (one time) means.

Please be advised that should a staff member or student become ill while at school (they will be immediately tested (with parent permission if a student) sent home to quarantine/isolate (if positive result) for a minimum of 14 days). If the illness is determined to be COVID-19 through a positive test result, TCHHSA will be contacted and provided information as required by their guidelines provided to our District. Contact Tracing will determine the number of students/staff exposed and drive partial or complete school closure for a two week period (time may extend and will be determined on case by case basis).

Reviewed and revised December 13, 2021