

2020-21

California Montessori Project Re-Opening Plan – October 5th Update



Introduction

The California Montessori Project (CMP) is home to approximately 2,700 students and 500 staff members. We are a community that cares deeply about our collective well-being.

Due to the COVID-19 global pandemic, CMP ceased in-person schooling on March 16th and began offering Distance Learning to our students immediately. Nine out of ten CMP students participated regularly in Distance Learning in the spring of 2020, more than 600 Chromebooks were distributed, and CMP teachers provided a high quality, well rounded education to our students despite the challenges of the COVID-19 closure.

CMP began its 2020-21 school year in Distance Learning due to local public health conditions. We continue to regularly survey our families. Fully 90% of families say that CMP's 2020-21 Distance Learning program is superior to the Distance Learning they gave high marks to last Spring.

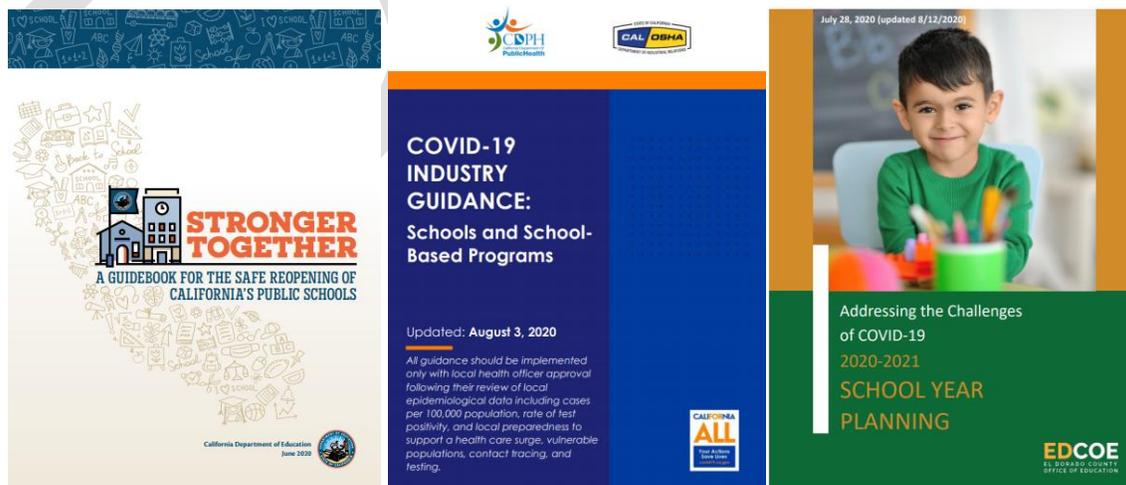
Still, we know that Distance Learning is no replacement for a high quality, in-person Montessori education. Since March, CMP has been planning how to safely bring students and families back to school.

We also know that we must adhere to federal, state, and local guidelines to keep our students and staff safe. This plan outlines how CMP intends to follow public health guidance while also providing the high quality, in-person Montessori education our students and families come to CMP to receive.

This plan also takes into consideration feedback from twelve surveys of CMP families and staff from May, June, July, and September.

Public Health Guidance

Throughout the COVID-19 global pandemic CMP has been guided by public health guidelines. Our reopening plans are consistent with the most recent federal, state, and local guidance. There are four anchor documents that CMP has used to craft its plans: the California Department of Education's "[Stronger Together Plan](#)", the California Department of Public Health's "[COVID-19 Industry Guidance: Schools and School-Based Programs](#)", and the El Dorado County Office of Education "[Addressing the Challenges of COVID-19 2020-2021 School Year Planning](#)".



What CMP Families can Expect when Students Return to Campus



Please note that these plans are current as of October 2, 2020 and subject to change pending further public health guidance.

When students return to school, on-campus school will look much different than previous years due to new health and safety measures.

CMP will offer both distance learning and in-person options designed to meet the diverse needs of our students and families.

If a student is attending school in-person families can expect the following:

Screening at Home and School

- Families are recommended to take temperatures daily before going to school. Anyone with a fever of 100.4 F or higher should not go to school.
- Fever screening will also occur prior to the start of school by CMP staff via touchless thermometers.
- Students and adults should also screen themselves for respiratory symptoms such as cough or shortness of breath prior to coming to school each day. Students and adults experiencing those symptoms should not attend school.
- Families will complete a digital COVID-19 Screening Tool for their children prior to dropping their children off at campus. The questions will include:
 - Does the child have a fever (100.4° F or greater) without having taken any fever-reducing medications?
 - Does the child have a sore throat?

- Does the child have a new uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing (for children with chronic allergic/asthmatic cough, a change in their cough from baseline)?
- Does the child have diarrhea, vomiting, or abdominal pain?
- Does the child have new onset of severe headache, especially with a fever?
- Staff will also complete a COVID-19 Screening Tool prior to coming onto campus. The questions will include:
 - Do you have a fever (100.4° F or greater) without having taken any fever-reducing medications?
 - Do you have a loss of smell or taste?
 - Do you have a cough?
 - Do you have muscle aches?
 - Do you have a sore throat?
 - Do you have congestion or a runny nose?
 - Do you have shortness of breath?
 - Do you have chills?
 - Do you have a headache?
 - Have you experienced any new gastrointestinal symptoms such as nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, or loss of appetite in the last few days?
 - Have you, or anyone you have been in close contact with, been diagnosed with COVID-19 or placed in quarantine for possible exposure to COVID-19 within the last two weeks?
 - Have you been asked to isolate or quarantine by a medical professional or a local public health official in the last two weeks?

Arriving at School

- Staff will be wearing face coverings.
- Parents, volunteers, and visitors will have limited access to the school campus (i.e. access only to the front office and pre-scheduled, essential meetings).
- Arrival and dismissal times may vary depending on grade level to limit group size at car loops.
- Arrival procedures will include fever screening.



General Safety Precautions Throughout the Day



- CMP will follow disinfection guidelines developed by local public health and the CDC
- Physical barriers will be installed in each school's front office.
- All students and staff will be encouraged to wash and clean hands regularly
- Handwashing stations with soap and/or hand sanitizer will be made available in all classrooms.
- Teachers shall ensure all students wash their hands using hand sanitizer or soap and water whenever entering and leaving the room.

- Students shall be taught and prompted to wash their hands using sanitizer or soap and water prior to eating, after coughing or sneezing, and before and after using the restroom.
- CMP will limit sharing of supplies and disinfect between uses when sharing is unavoidable.
- School facilities will be disinfected each day with CDC approved cleaning solutions and deep cleaned between cohorts (if in Hybrid Model).
- All drinking fountains will be turned off, and students will be encouraged to bring a water bottle that can be filled at a classroom sink or water bottle filling station.
- HVAC systems will be set to maximize circulation of air from outside buildings.
- Windows and doors will be kept open to the extent possible to keep fresh air flowing through indoor spaces.



Face Coverings and Other Safety Precautions

- Face coverings will be worn by staff and students, unless the staff member or student has a medical condition that would preclude them from wearing a face covering. Students and staff that cannot wear a face covering will wear a face shield.
- Pursuant to [California Department of Public Health Guidance](#), "schools must exclude students from campus if they are not exempt from wearing a face covering under CDPH guidelines and refuse to wear one provided by the school."
- Students are encouraged to bring their own washable and reusable face covering.
- If a family does not have access to a face covering CMP will provide one.
- Gloves are not recommended for use by students.



- All members of the public entering school offices are required to wear a face covering.
- Community snack will no longer be provided and birthday circles will be celebrated without food.

Social Distancing

ON CAMPUS AND IN THE CLASSROOM



Local public health departments are requiring that schools maintain six feet of social distancing between students and/or staff. To do so they recommend modifying schedules, limiting visitors, keeping students in smaller groups, serving meals in small groups, spacing desks or student work spaces further apart, keeping student cohorts from mixing, staggering lunch/recess/transition times, not holding large assemblies and dances, and identifying a sick room for students that are not feeling well to minimize contact.

Surveillance Testing for CMP Staff

According to the [CDPH Reopening In-Person Learning Framework for K-12 Schools](#), once schools reopen it is recommended that surveillance testing be implemented based on the local disease trends.

CMP has been working closely with El Dorado County Public Health Department and the El Dorado County Office of Education and will be participating in El Dorado County's Surveillance Testing Program for school employees.

El Dorado County is providing all teachers and school site staff access to dedicated, no-cost COVID-19 testing. This program is an important factor in being able to help to ensure COVID19 cases are isolated to prevent outbreaks.

The purpose of surveillance tests is to monitor the current state of the epidemic. It is used to monitor things like whether the COVID-19 virus is moving into new areas, whether it is affecting some groups of people more than other groups of people, or whether it is going up or going down.

However, it's also important to understand what surveillance doesn't mean. It does not mean that everybody gets tested. Instead, surveillance means that we test the right samples of the population in a way that allows us to make inferences as efficiently as possible.

El Dorado County's recommended frequency is testing all staff over a two month period, where 50% of staff are tested every month to rotate testing of all staff over time

CMP has been assigned to the Buckeye Union School District Office testing site. Staff have already begun to register and our first testing date is October 8th, 2020. CMP's dates for the remainder of the calendar year are November 5th and December 10th.

Currently, the CDPH guidelines only include recommendations for testing of staff, there are no guidelines on the surveillance testing of students.

2020-21 Instructional Models

To meet the diverse needs of CMP families, CMP will offer both full time Distance Learning and in-person learning (the scale of which will be dependent upon public health guidance) during the 2020-21 school year.

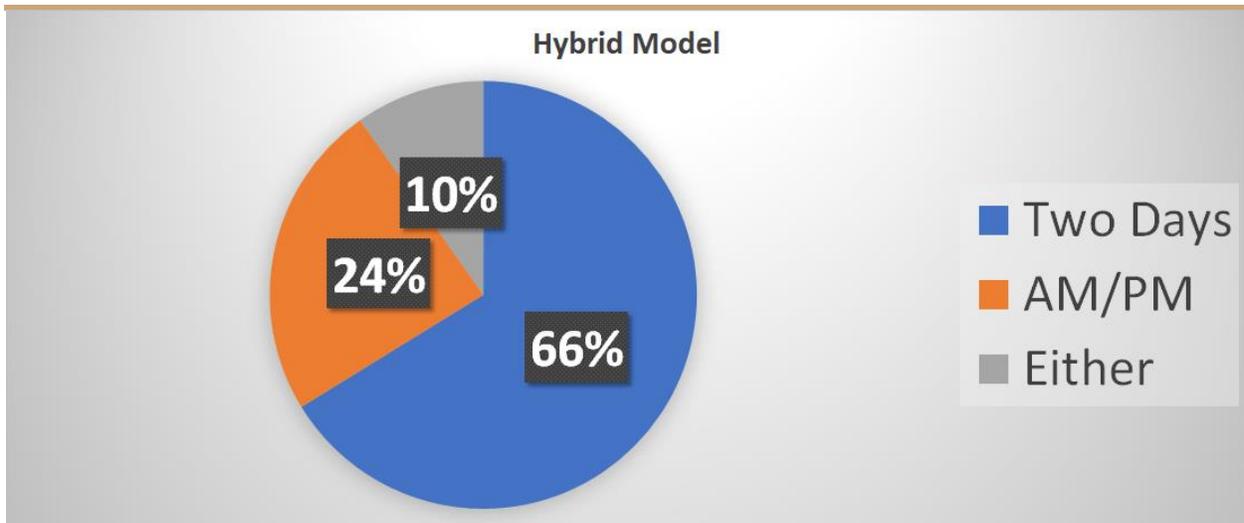
Distance Learning

From our surveys we have seen that ten to twenty percent of CMP families would like to remain in Distance Learning during the 2020-21 school year. Another 25% of families have not yet made their decision. CMP has developed a program to meet the needs of all families.

CMP students selecting full time Distance Learning will continue to be a part of the CMP community they have come to know and love. They will be provided with a Distance Learning teacher and will continue with a Distance Learning program similar to what they experienced this fall. Families selecting full time Distance Learning should know that their teacher could change depending upon their current teacher's assignment for Hybrid Learning.

In-Person Hybrid Model

CMP surveyed our staff and families multiple times and determined that if we are not able to maintain the six feet of social distancing we would implement a hybrid model that limited the number of students on site each day. In our most recent September 25th survey, two-thirds of CMP parents preferred a two day a week model.



After multiple discussions and surveys with staff and families, the CMP Board selected a model that prioritizes both in-person learning and safety. The model allows students to attend two full days of school, participate in three days of at-home learning, and provides CMP with a full day to clean and disinfect our schools between cohort groups. Teachers have been given the draft schedules below and were asked to use these schedules as a starting point for crafting their classroom schedules. Parents can expect to receive more detailed, class specific, schedules from their teachers prior to the start of the Hybrid Model.

Example Monday/Tuesday and Thursday/Friday Schedule

* On-Campus Student View

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	Cohort A	Cohort A	Distance Learning	Cohort B	Cohort B
8:00am	Symptom Checks	Symptom Checks		Symptom Checks	Symptom Checks
8:30am	Start of School Day	Start of School Day	Whole Class Zoom	Start of School Day	Start of School Day
9:00am	Whole Class Meeting (Cohort B on Zoom)	Whole Class Meeting (Cohort B on Zoom)	Asynchronous Learning	Whole Class Meeting (Cohort A on Zoom)	Whole Class Meeting (Cohort A on Zoom)
9:30am-12:00pm	Montessori Lessons and Work Time	Montessori Lessons and Work Time	Interventions Counseling/Library Art/PE/VAPA	Montessori Lessons and Work Time	Montessori Lessons and Work Time
12:00pm-12:30pm	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
12:30pm - 1:30pm	ELA	ELA	Asynchronous Learning	ELA	ELA
1:30pm - 2:30pm	Math	Math		Math	Math
2:30pm – 3:00pm	Science and Social Studies	Science and Social Studies	Interventions Counseling/Library Art/PE/VAPA	Science and Social Studies	Science and Social Studies
3:00pm	End of Student Day	End of Student Day		End of Student Day	End of Student Day

Example Monday/Tuesday and Thursday/Friday Schedule

*at home student view

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	Cohort B	Cohort B	Distance Learning	Cohort A	Cohort A
8:30am (Potential Reading/Math Support Time)	Start of School Day (Google Classroom, Set Up Work Space, Finish Unfinished Work)	Start of School Day (Google Classroom, Set Up Work Space, Finish Unfinished Work)	Whole Class Zoom	Start of School Day (Google Classroom, Set Up Work Space, Finish Unfinished Work)	Start of School Day (Google Classroom, Set Up Work Space, Finish Unfinished Work)
9:00am	Whole Class Meeting (Cohort B on Zoom)	Whole Class Meeting (Cohort B on Zoom)	Teacher Assigned Work Rosetta Stone Keyboarding Independent Reading iReady Catch Up Counseling/Library Art/PE/VAPA Interventions	Whole Class Meeting (Cohort A on Zoom)	Whole Class Meeting (Cohort A on Zoom)
9:30am-11:30PM (Potential Reading/Math Support Time and TA Help Desk)	Follow-Up Montessori Work iReady Reading Independent Reading iReady Math	Follow-Up Montessori Work iReady Reading Independent Reading iReady Math		Follow-Up Montessori Work iReady Reading Independent Reading iReady Math	Follow-Up Montessori Work iReady Reading Independent Reading iReady Math
11:30am-12:00pm (Flexible)	Counseling/Library Art/PE/VAPA	Counseling/Library Art/PE/VAPA		Counseling/Library Art/PE/VAPA	Counseling/Library Art/PE/VAPA
12:00pm-12:30pm	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
12:30pm - 1:30pm (Flexible)	Counseling/Library Art/PE/VAPA	Counseling/Library Art/PE/VAPA	Teacher Assigned Science and Social Studies	Counseling/Library Art/PE/VAPA	Counseling/Library Art/PE/VAPA
1:30pm – 3:00pm (Potential Reading/Math Support Time and TA Help Desk)	Reading/Math Follow Up, Science and Social Studies	Reading/Math Follow Up, Science and Social Studies	Counseling/Library Art/PE/VAPA Interventions	Reading/Math Follow Up Science, Social Studies, Cultural	Reading/Math Follow Up Science, Social Studies, Cultural
3:00pm	End of Student School Day	End of Student School Day	End of Student School Day	End of Student School Day	End of Student School Day

Full Time In-Person Learning

A CMP school site(s) may be able to offer Full Time In-Person learning five days a week if enough families select full time Distance Learning and there is sufficient space to comply with the six-foot social distancing requirements.

CMP family responses to our October survey will provide us with the information we need to determine if Full Time In-Person Learning is possible.

Considerations for Quarantine, Partial Closure, Complete Closure, and Return to Distance Learning

CMP has been working closely with Sacramento County Public Health and has been provided with guidance for multiple scenarios for student or staff that may be experience symptoms or test positive. For the COVID-19 public health purposes [“a contact is defined as a person who is less than 6 feet from a case for more than 15 minutes”](#).

Scenario 1

A student, staff member, or family member(s) either exhibits COVID-19 symptoms (e.g., cough, temp of 100.4°F (38°C) or above) or answers yes to a health screening question.

Recommended Actions

- Student, staff, or family member(s): stay/send home to isolate
- Consult with EDC Public Health as needed
- Contact healthcare provider for testing, if indicated
- If COVID-19 test is positive or if test not done, isolation continues until released by EDC Public Health (minimum of 10 days).
- If COVID-19 test is negative, see Scenario 4
- Cohort OPEN
- No communication is necessary

Scenario 2

A family member or someone in close contact with a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19.

Recommended Actions

- Student or Staff: report information to administration
- Consult with EDC Public Health for verification of positive test result before taking further action
- If determined not to be a true case, no letter needs to be sent
- If confirmed, EDC Public Health will direct to send home to start 14-day quarantine and will determine whether further action is needed.
- Cohort OPEN
- Communication sent to cohort staff and families that protects privacy of the individual

Scenario 3

A student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19.

Recommended Actions

- Student or Staff: report information to administration
- Families of Students & Staff: Send home to isolate. Consult EDC Public Health for guidance on whether any students, staff or teachers need to quarantine, be tested, or whether the cohort needs to be closed
- Close off/clean areas used by individual suspected of infection
- Communication sent to cohort staff and families that protects privacy of the individual

Scenario 4

A student or staff member tests negative for COVID-19 after symptoms.

Recommended Actions

- Student or Staff: may return to school after symptoms resolve and fever-free for at least 24 hours without fever-reducing medications. (Consult EDC Public Health for guidance on whether any students, staff or teachers may end their quarantines)
- Cohort OPEN
- Communication sent to cohort staff and families that protects privacy of the individual

Scenario 5

A student or staff member tests negative for COVID-19 during quarantine (asymptomatic).

Recommended Actions

- Negative test does not shorten quarantine
- No communication required

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 the 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/staff 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

In the event of a classroom or school closure, teachers will be prepared to shift to providing Distance Learning that incorporates a combination of direct instruction and independent learning activities.

The precautions we are taking now, with your assistance, will help ensure that CMP does not have to close and disrupt student learning.

Special Education and Students on a 504 Plan

CMP continues to be committed to meeting the needs of students with disabilities who are on a 504 plan or receiving special education services and offering a free and appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment. Parent and staff input through meetings and surveys will help CMP identify the best way to execute the services, regardless of the reopening model selected. The Special Education Department is currently reviewing this information and student paperwork to support campuses in creating schedules and service offerings to help students continue to make progress. In addition, the following will be taken into account:

- Accommodations that may be needed in the distance learning environment
- Assistive technology that may be needed during distance learning
- A review of services that lend themselves better to a virtual environment
- Continued assessment of progress and possible regression of skills

As special education staff start the new school year, parents of students with disabilities who receive services will be contacted by the case manager to discuss service details and more global information will be sent through ParentSquare.

During Distance Learning CMP is also following [CDPH Cohort Guidance related to student cohorts](#) and has been bringing students to campus for services in alignment with that guidance.

Draft

Student and Family Resources

Social Emotional Well-Being

- CMP has school counselors and school psychologists ready to lend a hand at every campus.
- CMP has a robust social emotional curriculum that can be taught in person or virtually at each campus.
- CMP has developed a bank of resources for families in need of support.
- CMP has developed a website dedicated to social emotional learning.



Field Trips, Sports, and Extracurricular Activities



- Public Health Departments are not recommending field trips.
- CMP will provide virtual field trips to students and will monitor guidance to see if field trips will be recommended in the future.
- Public Health Departments are not recommending assemblies, dances, and rallies.
- CMP will work to find ways to bring students and families together virtually or in-person in a safe socially distanced manner.
- CMP has historically offered sports during the school year. Two of our most popular sports (i.e. Volleyball and Basketball) are not recommended. CMP will review guidelines to see when Volleyball, Basketball, and other sports may be able to be brought back and will investigate offering other permissible sports (Tennis, Cross Country, Track and Field, etc.)

- In-person music instruction is not recommended. CMP will seek to provide virtual music enrichment.

Club M

- CMP will not be able to offer Club M opportunities at this time but will look to bring Club M back as public health conditions allow.



Draft

CMP's Ten Commitments to Learning During the 2020-21 School Year

1. We will ground our approach in Montessori methodology and equity to take a tailored approach to meeting the individual needs of each student.
2. We will prioritize student, staff, & community safety.
3. We will support the physical and mental well-being of students and staff and integrate social-emotional learning into our instructional core.
4. We will measure student engagement; seek to keep students engaged, motivated, and healthy; and take immediate action when we see students not fully engaging.
5. We will continue student learning by teaching new content across a well-rounded curriculum.
6. We will focus instruction on the mastery of essential standards.
7. We will provide "live" class instruction every day.
8. We will provide feedback on student work through the use of rubrics and/or grades.
9. We will authentically engage and collaborate with each other in all phases of re-opening planning, implementation, and communication.
10. We recognize that families have different circumstances and commit to meeting families where they are and providing support to the best of our abilities.