

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

State of School Opening in 2020/21 School Year

SAFETY PLAN

A Comprehensive School Safety Plan, required by Education Code 32282-32289, is in the process of being developed by a Safety Committee including leadership, parent and staff representatives with the support of S3DX Consulting.

The Safety Plan has two phases:

1. Ensuring compliance (95% completed)
2. Developing an Operational Safety Plan (now – March 2021)

COVID REOPENING PLAN

The following factors are keeping FCSO closed for the foreseeable future. Many of these factors are outside of the control of Francophone.

1. State and county restrictions – Based on a high rate of community transmission of COVID in our county, we are currently on Stay and Home Orders¹ until at least January 7, 2021. This is likely to be extended beyond this date based on current ICU bed availability (the trigger for the order).
2. State and county guidance – In order to reopen, Francophone must write a plan based on state and local guidance² to ensure the lowest risk of COVID transmissibility. Based on the current guidelines, Francophone is unable to open safely for the following reasons:
 - a. Space requirements would necessitate a hybrid model be put in place but the hybrid model puts our community at a higher risk for COVID transmission³
 - b. Bilingual education model (more than one teacher per classroom) is not compliant with county guidelines of non-mixing cohorts
 - c. Inability to hire more Francophone teachers from overseas⁴
3. School specific concerns – If the first two items above change, there are still possible barriers to opening the school. These include the following:
 - a. Financial cost to meet guidance requirements (including increased cleaning requirements, possibly need for ventilation enhancement and/or air purification systems and procurement of PPE)
 - b. Stakeholder agreement to open during a pandemic – all stakeholders must agree to risk involved during a pandemic

As vaccines start to become available in 2021, and/or guidance is updated, Francophone may be able to consider reopening. Updates will continue to be communicated on a regular basis.

¹ <https://covid-19.acgov.org/covid19-assets/docs/press/press-release-2020.12.16.pdf>

² <https://www.acoe.org/schoolguidance>

³ <https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/news/hsph-in-the-news/why-hybrid-schooling-could-be-risky/>

⁴ <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/from-other-countries.html>