



COUNTY OF YOLO

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 3, 2020

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Woodland Christian School Approved for School Waiver

(Woodland, CA) – On September 3, Woodland Christian School became the first elementary school in Yolo County granted a waiver to re-open in-person instruction by the State of California with local Public Health Officer approval.

On July 17, Governor Newsom issued guidance that any private or public school located in counties on the State of California's County Data Monitoring List (List) would not be able to open for in-person learning or instruction until the county had been removed from the List for 14 consecutive days. However, elementary schools could apply for a waiver to allow for in-person learning in counties on the List if local Public Health Officers granted a waiver. The waiver is only applicable for grades TK-6, even if the school includes additional grades and would need to be approved by the local Public Health Officer.

Yolo County has been on the State's List since [July 8](#) for exceeding case rate and hospital capacity metrics. When the State transitioned to the new 'Blueprint for Safer Economy' on August 31, Yolo County was placed on the most restrictive tier - widespread. As a result, any school in Yolo County that wants to re-open for in-person learning must go through a lengthy waiver process that includes, but is not limited to:

- Completing an application and providing supporting documentation.
- Consulting with labor, parent, and community organizations and providing evidence of these consultations to the local health officer, including a signed attestation form.
- Creating an elementary school reopening plan that must address several topics related to health and safety, such as: cleaning and disinfection; entrance, egress and movement within the school; face coverings and other essential protective gear; health screenings; healthy hygiene practices; identification and contact tracing; physical distancing; staff training and family education; student and staff testing; triggers for switching to distance learning; and communication plans.
- Publishing the reopening plan on the school's website.
- Making revisions to the reopening plan as requested by the local Public Health Officer.
- Working with local public health staff, including having an onsite visit.
- Allowing ongoing compliance checks by public health staff.

Woodland Christian School has made multiple changes to meet the necessary criteria, including hiring extra staff, creating protocols for responding to COVID-positive staff or students, implementing the necessary health measures and safety protocols, and developing outdoor instruction space.

Yolo County has received 6 additional applications that are currently being processed for consideration. For information about the State's waiver process, [click here](#). To view Woodland Christian's School reopening plan and their COVID-19 response, visit: <https://www.woodlandchristian.org/covid-19-response.html>.

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