



November 10, 2020

The Springstone School  
1035 Carol Lane  
Lafayette, CA 94549  
925.962.9660  
info@thespringstoneschool.org  
www.thespringstoneschool.org

### **The Springstone School Reopening Plans**

Partial Reopening Date: November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020 (1 day a week)

\*The above partial re-opening has been cancelled due to California State mandate disallowing schools to re-open when Contra Costa County entered the “Purple Tier” on 11/16/2020 at noon.

Reopening Date: January 26, 2021

### **Total Enrollment:**

6<sup>th</sup> Grade: 7 Students  
7<sup>th</sup> Grade: 8 Students  
8<sup>th</sup> Grade: 7 Students  
9<sup>th</sup> Grade: 6 Students  
10<sup>th</sup> Grade: 5 Students  
11<sup>th</sup> Grade: 8 Students  
12<sup>th</sup> Grade: 7 Students  
Total Enrollment: 48 Students

Faculty: 9 Teachers  
Administration: 3 Directors

# **The Springstone School Reopening Plans Q & A**

## **All School Community / General Questions**

### ***Who is part of the decision-making process, and who, ultimately, makes the final decision as to when/how The Springstone School will open?***

The Springstone School's reopening plans have been developed by a team of The Springstone School administration and board members, including:

Alexis Rucker: Principal  
Kristine Wong: Director/Founder  
Marian Kidder: Dean of Operations  
Inez Wondez: Board Member  
Mei Costello: Board Treasurer  
Kathleen McKnulty: Board Member and Former Parent  
Dan Senter: Our Savior's Lutheran Church Pastor

The Springstone School's Faculty are also key members to the process as they partner in development of both our remote learning and hybrid plans as needed. All decisions made regarding the reopening and return to campus are made as a collective, and not by any single individual.

### ***Have you brought parents into the process of reopening plans? If so, which parents?***

Aside from the survey, parents have not been formally brought into the process, although several parents have, and continue to share their feedback daily. Moving forward there will be opportunities for parents to continue to share their feedback, both formally and informally as needed.

### ***What role does OSLC play in the reopening of The Springstone School?***

The Springstone School is a tenant at Our Savior's Lutheran Church. Although there are several benefits to being part of the larger community, The Springstone School is working very closely with OSLC leadership to ensure that our students are kept safe and separate from the Church community. The needs of The Springstone School families are considered a part of the needs of the greater OSLC community.

### ***In August, The Springstone School was prepared to return to onsite learning - what has changed?***

The Springstone School was prepared to open in August, following a hybrid schedule, when the county and state agencies allowed schools to open. In August, the Governor made the announcement that schools could not open and our community was asked to shelter in place.

At that time, The Springstone School had no choice but to move to a remote learning model, and we have continued to stay in such, for a variety of reasons, not least of which is the guidance and restrictions imposed by Contra Costa County for the health and safety of the community. At this time, middle schools have not been given permission to reopen; elementary schools have been given approval with precautions.

***If Contra Costa County returns to the purple tier, will The Springstone School return to remote learning?***

Although Contra Costa County has stated that once a school opens, they will not need to close if the county returns to the purple tier and numbers increase, The Springstone School has decided that we will return to remote learning in this situation. The same will be in effect if a student exhibits symptoms or tests positive for COVID-19.

**Rationale: As a small community, the possibility for transmission is vast. We have a small teaching community without aides/paras and no substitutes to cover classes should a teacher become ill. While this is manageable during a regular cold/flu season for administration to cover classes, we cannot cover classes if more than one staff is out at any given time.**

***Are there cost barriers to reopening?***

No cost barriers exist. Although there have been substantial costs associated with implementing the reopening plans (modifications, PPE, facilities improvements, O.T. Equipment, etc.) The Springstone School received a COVID-19 relief loan to offset most of the financial needs for reopening.

***What are the concerns of the teachers about reopening?***

When surveyed, only 30% of our teaching staff said they were comfortable returning to campus, with all recommended precautions and safety measures in place. Our teaching team feel more comfortable than a traditional school returning because the program is designed to be exposed to one cohort of 8 students; but as they rotate around the students, this increases their exposure to 22 students in middle school and 26 in high school. This increases their risk substantially. Each situation is different and varied, some of our teachers are in high-risk categories, care for aging parents, or live with others in roommate situations with people that are at a higher risk.

Teachers are also concerned about the behavior of the students', how much they will need to "police" mask wearing, sensory seeking needs of our students, and managing the use of equipment to be successful in classes that were traditionally offered pre COVID and cannot be accessed in the same way.

### ***Has Springstone considered a hybrid model?***

Yes, we are preparing to offer an optional one day a week on campus hybrid model for our ACCESS program. This is will be an optional return to campus with less than half of our population signed up to return to campus and the other students learning remotely. Due to our decision to facilitate health and safety of our students and staff, as well as factoring the possibility of back and forth transitions if a student were to exhibit symptoms, The Springstone School has decided not to pursue this model on larger scale. At this time, The Springstone School is exceeding the recommended and required amount of synchronous learning offered to our students by the county and state. Our teachers provide asynchronous activities during the times that online direct instructions are not being offered. Although some families would prefer more live Google Meets, we have several families that continue to share the feedback that the amount of meetings and screen time is excessive, and have asked for, and received modifications. We know that many of families joined The Springstone School to facilitate and work on social skills with their students. Through clubs and other online, optional activities, we are going above and beyond the expectations of the state and of other schools. We encourage parents to reach out to their child's teachers if they would like extension opportunities or modifications.

### ***What is being put in place to overcome those fears/concerns?***

Although teachers' fears have not been eliminated, the following precautions and measures are being implemented to lower their risk:

- Regular testing of staff and recommended testing of students, and families is being encouraged
- Ventilation systems in all classrooms
- PPE provided to all staff, and required masks by everyone on campus
- Outdoor classrooms during phase one and two; encouraged outdoor activities in designated spaces when appropriate/applicable
- Improvements have been made to our bathrooms, hand sanitizing stations have been set up, and plans have been created to lessen the number of people on campus at any given time (i.e. no visitors on campus at this time)

### ***Can we make use of the outdoor space for classes?***

When the weather is appropriate and we are able to, specific outdoor spaces can be used to teach our students.

### ***Is COVID testing required of students?***

The Springstone School is not asking that each family is tested at this time. However, if your student should exhibit symptoms or need to be sent home for any COVID-19 symptoms, a negative test will need to be done and shown to administration before returning to school. This step offers our teaching staff a level of support and confidence that plays a big role in them feeling safe to return. Springstone staff will be tested every 6 weeks or as needed.

### ***If we are spending time with family over the holidays, what precautions should we take as a family? What precautions is The Springstone School taking?***

The Springstone School has put together a travel policy and will be sent out as a separate document. The Springstone School asks that all members of the community limit high risk activities, including high risk travel. If a family travels for the holidays on an airplane (considered higher risk than a road trip), please let the school know. We ask that you return to remote learning for two weeks following the trip. The Springstone School will be utilizing remote learning for the two weeks after the winter break.

### ***What happens if a member of a student's family tests positive?***

Even if a student tests negative, but a family member has tested positive, the following protocol is in place to keep The Springstone School safe:

In accordance with CCCHD guidelines in order for a student or staff member to return to school after being ill, with positive or negative COVID-19 diagnosis must meet all three of the following criteria:

- Respiratory symptoms are improving;
- They have had no fever for 72 hours without the use of fever

reducing medicines; and

- At least 10 days have passed since the onset of the illness

If a student/staff member has close contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19 (e.g. a family member), they should be tested for COVID-19 and may not return to school until they have been cleared to do so by a physician. If the student/staff member is COVID-negative and remains asymptomatic, the recommendation for clearance is:

- Return 14 days after the last unprotected contact with the COVID-positive person OR
- Return 14 days after the COVID-positive person's symptoms have completely resolved.

### ***What type of masks are allowed?***

Masks that cover the mouth and nose, wrap around the ears or head, with the least amount of adjustments needed by students are ideal. Masks that tie must be tied in all locations and cannot be open on the bottom. Masks with exhalation valves are NOT allowed. A different mask must be worn each day. Please take your masks home and wash them after each day of use. Face shields are allowed, but cannot be the only form of protection; MASKS ARE REQUIRED

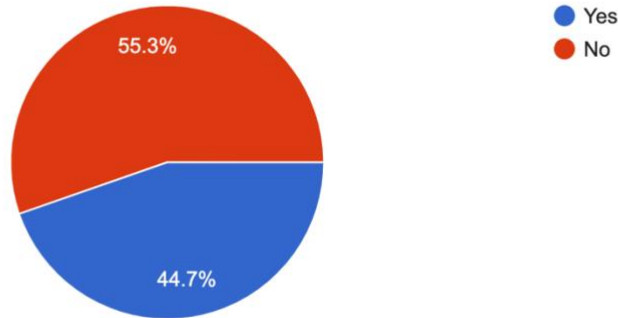
### ***How can parents help? Is fundraising needed?***

Thankfully, there is no need for fundraising at this point, for reopening specific needs. The Springstone School asks that parents continue to support our teachers and administrators by communicating respectfully, and to continue to be patient with this process; trust that we are working endlessly to provide a robust remote learning program, develop an onsite learning plan, and know that we will continue to keep safety as our number one priority. Please also work with your children to practice wearing their masks appropriately, washing their hands for 20 seconds, and take a look together as what 6 feet actually looks like. General hygiene is one of the best protections against COVID-19, and this includes using utensils appropriately, respecting physical distancing, and minimizing face/mouth touching. Continuing to work on this at home will be of the utmost importance.

## Results of the Parent Survey Regarding Reopening:

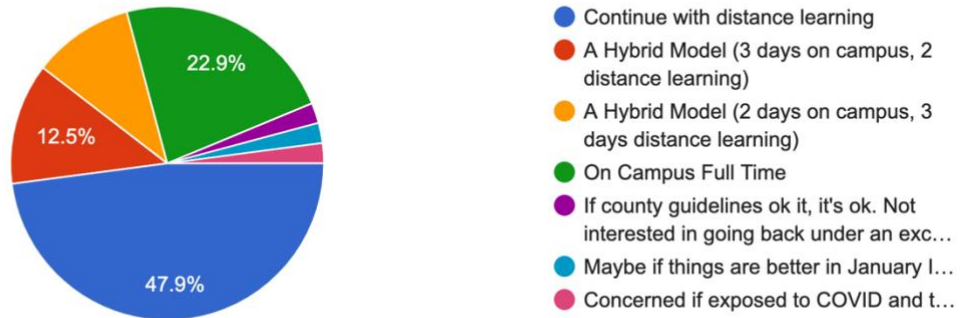
Do you intend to send your student to school for in person learning if that were an option?

47 responses



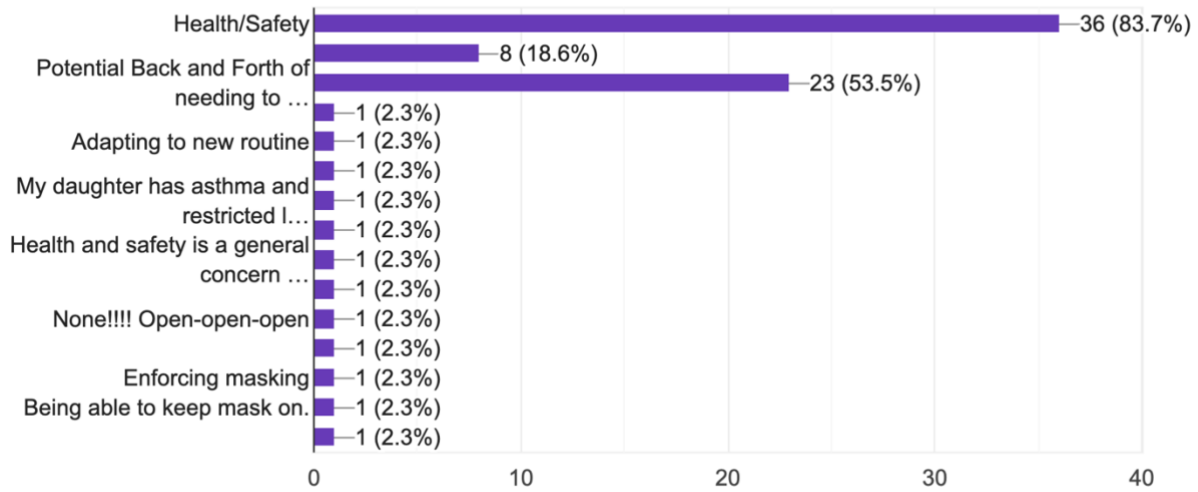
What is your preference on a potential reopening starting the week of November 2, 2020?

48 responses



### What concerns do you have with reopening?

43 responses



### How concerned are you with sending your student back to school?

45 responses

