

MCOE Common Message on Select Issues Related to COVID-19 Emergency



MCOE leadership staff in consultation with department staff have met and agreed on the following guidance for our work during the COVID-19 emergency. This guidance is intended to inform the work we engage in daily, with individual clients as well as schools and districts. It is intended to be used in conjunction with individual professional judgment in consultation with supervisors in each department. This guidance is subject to change based on Merced County's placement on the State Watch List or other criteria as determined by the Merced County Department of Public Health.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

- MCOE expects all Professional Development (PD) to be delivered in a virtual environment in order to keep both employees and clients safe.
 - When deemed necessary by the primary department administrator, PD may be delivered in person under the following conditions:
 - In-person PD will be limited to 12 people or 25% of the room capacity while in Red Tier.
 - No more than 10 people present and where all are physically distanced
 - Masks are mandatory for all participants
 - PPE will be provided by the client requesting the service, if face masks are not enforced, MCOE staff will end the session
 - In-person delivery of PD must receive prior approval from a supervisor

COACHING:

- MCOE prefers virtual coaching whenever possible but recognizes some coaching must be done in person.
 - In-person "close contact, (less than 6 feet)" coaching must be limited in time duration (15 minutes or less)
 - Social distance; 6-foot rule applies
 - Face masks are required, face shields are not sufficient alone
 - Supervisors' approval is required if performed in person

HOME SERVICES:

- MCOE preference is for virtual home services whenever possible. Some home services must be delivered directly, they include but are not limited to: assessments, medical therapy, observations, in-home training and social services
 - In-person services require proper PPE and supervisor approval
 - Drop-off services, which may temporarily replace in-home services, require proper PPE

DISTANCE LEARNING:

- While distance learning remains an option for students and families, MCOE schools are transitioning to in-person learning for students who choose to return to school.
- Instructional decisions will be based on student needs, developmental levels, IEPs, program requirements and regulations as identified in SB 98 and other related guidance from CDE
- MCOE staff will use and support both synchronous and asynchronous learning
- When supporting teachers and students in the 20 Merced County school districts and MCOE-operated schools, all staff (preschool-grade 12) will consider local LEA and school policy and SB 98 requirements as they support staff and students with distance learning options.