

**Sacramento County Office of Education
SCOE Student Programs Safe Return to
In-person Instruction
2022–23 School Year**

Number of schools: 7

Enrollment: 1143

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County: Sacramento

Grade Level: K-12

Type of LEA: County Office of Education

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The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) recommends that all local educational agencies (LEAs) post a safety plan, communicating the safety measures in place for 2022- 23, on the LEA's website and at schools, and disseminate to families in advance of the startof the school year.

The Sacramento County Office of Education (SCOE) COVID-19 Safety Plan (CSP) consists of two elements: the **COVID-19 Prevention Program (CPP)**, pursuant to Cal/OSHA requirements, and this **COVID-19 Guidance for Student Programs**.

Safety Measures for K-12 Student Programs

Masks/Face Coverings guidance applies to all student settings within SCOE

- Masks, particularly high-quality and well-fitting masks, remain highly effective and dynamic tools to protect oneself and mitigate transmission of COVID-19 and other respiratory pathogens
- No person can be prevented from wearing a mask as a condition of participation in an activity or entry into a school, unless wearing a mask would pose a safety hazard (e.g., watersports).
- SCOE has developed and implemented protocols to provide masks to students who desire to use one.
- Unless otherwise directed by local health departments or local educational agencies, students and staff should follow CDPH masking guidance for the general public, as well as masking guidance for specific situations referenced below (e.g., when having symptoms, being infected, or exposed).

Effective September 23, 2022, The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) updated guidance for the use of face masks, using the federal community COVID-19 levels to inform statewide masking recommendations. The [community COVID-19 levels](#) set by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) help individuals and communities decide which prevention actions to take for COVID-19 based on data that classifies communities as low, medium, or high risk.

Physical Distancing

Recent evidence indicates that in-person instruction can occur safely without minimum physical distancing requirements when other mitigation strategies (e.g., masking) are implemented. This is consistent with [CDC K-12 School Guidance](#).

Ventilation

See Section (E) Ventilation Systems in Part 1: Cal/OSHA COVID-19 Prevention Program (CPP) for information about the optimization of ventilation in indoor spaces.

Recommendations for staying home when sick and getting tested

- a. SCOE follows the strategy for Staying Home when Sick and Getting Tested from the [CDC](#).
- b. Getting tested for COVID-19 when symptoms are [consistent with COVID-19](#) will help with rapid contact tracing and prevent possible spread at schools.
- c. Staff members and students with symptoms of COVID-19 infection are not to return for in-person instruction until they have met CDPH criteria to return to school for those with symptoms:
 - i. At least 24 hours have passed since resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications; and
 - ii. Other symptoms have improved; and
 - iii. They have a negative test for SARS-CoV-2 on Day 5 after symptom onset (or after date of first positive test if no symptoms), OR a healthcare provider has provided documentation that the symptoms are typical of their underlying chronic condition (e.g., allergies or asthma) OR a healthcare provider has confirmed an alternative named diagnosis (e.g., Streptococcal pharyngitis, Coxsackie virus), OR, if unable to test, at least 10 days have passed since symptom onset.

Testing Protocols

SCOE participates in the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Rapid Antigen Testing Program in which free on-site and at-home COVID-19 rapid antigen tests are available to SCOE students and staff. Students and staff exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 are required to test before returning to school/work. School nurses offer on-site testing for staff and students, with parent consent. Test results may also be obtained through a healthcare provider.

In the event of a positive case at a school site, the school nurse(s) conduct contact tracing efforts and immediately notify staff and student's parent/guardian(s) of exposure to COVID-19. Response testing is offered and conducted on-site for staff and students, with parent/guardian consent; or an at-home COVID-19 test kit is given to the parent/guardian to test the student at home.

For Staff, see page 23: Cal/OSHA COVID-19 Prevention Program (CPP) for information about the COVID-19 testing policies, availability, and resources. Staff have access to no-cost testing during their working hours (schedule arranged with Supervisor).

Case reporting, contact tracing, and investigation

Per AB 86 (2021) and California Code Title 17, section 2500, SCOE is required to report COVID-19 cases to the local public health department. SCOE has a COVID-19 liaison to assist the local health department with contact tracing and investigation.

Isolation

For students, SCOE follows Sacramento County Department of Public Health COVID-19 Guidance for K-12 schools. Individuals who test positive for COVID-19 must isolate at home. Isolation can end **5 days** after symptom onset if:

- At least 24 hours have passed since fever and symptoms have improved significantly; and
- Individual tests negative (preferably with a rapid antigen test) with specimen collected on or after **Day 5**; and
- Individual consistently wears well fitted mask while indoors at school through **Day 10** (strongly recommended for students)

If unable to test, choose not to test, or tests positive on Day 5, individual may return 10 days after symptom onset (**Day 11**).

For staff, see page 23: Cal/OSHA COVID-19 Prevention Program (CPP) for information about Return to Work Criteria after a COVID-19 infection.

Hand Hygiene

SCOE:

- Teaches and reinforces washing hands, avoiding contact with one's eyes, nose, and mouth, and covering coughs and sneezes among students and staff.
- Promotes hand washing throughout the day, especially before and after eating, after using the toilet, and after handling garbage, or removing gloves.
- Ensures adequate supplies to support healthy hygiene behaviors, including soap, tissues, no-touch trash cans, face coverings, and hand sanitizers with at least 60 percent ethyl alcohol for staff and children who can safely use hand sanitizer.

Cleaning

CDPH states that, in general, cleaning once a day is usually enough to sufficiently remove potential viruses that may be on surfaces. Disinfecting (using disinfectants on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency COVID-19 list) removes any remaining germs on surfaces, which further reduces any risk of spreading infection.

- If a facility has had a sick person with COVID-19 within the last 24 hours, SCOE will clean and disinfect the spaces occupied by that person during that time.

Food Service

SCOE cleans frequently touched surfaces. Surfaces that come in contact with food will be washed, rinsed, and sanitized before and after meals.

Additional considerations or other populations

1. Disabilities or other health care needs - When implementing this guidance, SCOE will:

- Carefully consider how to address the legal requirements related to provision of a free appropriate public education and requirements to reasonably accommodate disabilities, which continue to apply.
- Refer to the CDC K-12 guidance section on "Disabilities or other health care needs" for additional recommendations.

2. Visitors - SCOE will

- Review their rules for visitors and family engagement activities
- Limit the access of school visitors to current policies - require visitors to complete a symptom check (see below); and Continue to emphasize the importance of staying home when sick. Anyone, including visitors, who have symptoms of infectious illness, such as flu or COVID-19, should stay home and seek testing and care.

Continued Strategies

Screening for symptoms: All entering SCOE property are to self-screen daily prior to arrival on a campus or worksite. Signs indicating no entry for those who are experiencing symptoms are posted at sites. The self-screening guidance applies to all settings within the SCOE. SCOE

- Provides a list of screening questions for daily review at home;
- Actively encourages staff and students who are sick to stay home;
- Maintains policies that encourage sick staff and students to stay at home without fear of reprisal, and ensure staff, students, and students' families are aware of these policies;
- Will identify an isolation room or area to separate anyone who exhibits 1 or more symptoms of COVID-19 while at school;
- Will isolate students or staff exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 at school (fever of 100.4 degrees or higher, cough, difficulty breathing, or other COVID-19 symptoms) immediately in a private area until they can leave school or be picked up by a parent or guardian. Ill students and staff will be recommended to be tested for COVID-19 as soon as possible; and
- Instruct staff who observe students exhibiting signs or symptoms of COVID-19 to coordinate with the front office to support students who are less able to self-monitor or less likely to self-report.

Identification and Tracing of Contacts: SCOE handles contact tracing, maintenance and submission of information to the Sacramento County Public Health Department, and notification of exposed persons as described in the Cal/OSHA COVID-19 Prevention Program (CPP): (h) Investigating and Responding to COVID-19 in the Workplace. School sites and local public health contact the SCOE personnel listed here.

Staff Training and Family Education: SCOE communicates COVID-19 policies, procedures, and hazard information:

The SCOE communicates COVID-19 policies, procedures, and hazard information:

- In the COVID-19 Safety Plan (CSP), posted online
- In the COVID-19 Safety Plan (CSP), available upon request at each site in staff training and/or meetings
- In meetings attended by staff and community
- With posted signage at all sites

Identification and Reporting of Cases: At all times, reporting of confirmed positive and suspected cases in students and staff will be consistent with reporting requirements.

SCOE staff (Human Resources and/or Program staff) verify COVID-19 case status by phone. SCOE handles:

- Contact tracing
- Maintenance and submission of information to the local health department
- Exclusion of positive cases and persons exposed to positive cases
- Notification to exposed persons

Communication Plans: The Superintendent or designee communicates with students, staff, and parents about cases and exposures at the school, consistent with privacy requirements.

Vaccinations: SCOE encourages students and staff to obtain vaccinations and distributes information about vaccination clinics in the community.