

Sacramento County Office of Education COVID-19 GUIDANCE for Student Programs 2021–22 School Year

Number of schools: 7

Enrollment: 862

Superintendent (or equivalent) Name: David W. Gordon

Address: 10474 Mather Blvd. Mather,

California 95655

County: Sacramento

Grade Level: K-12

Type of LEA: County Office of Education

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

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 2021-22, on the LEA's website and at schools, and disseminate to families in advance of the start of 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 Student Programs

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

- Masks are optional outdoors for all in K-12 school settings.
- K-12 students are required to mask indoors, with exemptions per [CDPH face mask guidance](#). Adults in K-12 school settings are required to mask when sharing indoor spaces with students.
- Persons exempted from wearing a face covering due to a medical condition must wear a nonrestrictive alternative, such as a face shield with a drape on the bottom edge, as long as their condition permits it.
- SCOE has developed and implements protocols to provide a face covering to students who inadvertently fail to bring a face covering to school to prevent unnecessary exclusions.
- Additionally, SCOE offers alternative educational opportunities for students who are excluded from campus because they will not wear a face covering.
- Continued reminders to students and staff:
 - teaching and reinforcing use of face coverings, or in limited instances, face shields with drapes
 - not to touch the face covering and to wash their hands frequently
 - providing information to staff and families on proper use, removal, and washing of cloth face coverings
 - appropriate time to remove a face covering or face shield while indoors only for meals, snacks, naptime, or when it needs to be replaced.
- Applying face covering policies on any vehicle affiliated with the SCOE used to transport students, staff, or teachers to and/or from a school site.
- In limited situations where a face covering cannot be used for pedagogical or developmental reasons, (e.g., communicating or assisting young children or those with special needs) a face shield with a drape (per CDPH guidelines) can be used instead of a face covering while in the classroom as long as the wearer maintains physical distance from others. Staff must return to wearing a face covering in accordance with the second point above when sharing indoor spaces with students.

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, 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 at least 10 days have passed since symptom onset.

Screening testing recommendations

In addition to recommendations for symptomatic and response testing, SCOE recommends asymptomatic testing in accordance with Public Health recommendations. SCOE informs staff and families on how they can obtain asymptomatic surveillance testing at County Public Health locations. 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.

Quarantine for vaccinated close contacts

For those who are vaccinated, SCOE follows the [CDPH Fully Vaccinated People Guidance](#) regarding quarantine.

Quarantine for unvaccinated students for exposures when both parties were wearing a mask as required in indoor K-12 settings

When both parties were wearing a mask in the indoor classroom setting, unvaccinated students who are close contacts (more than 15 minutes over a 24-hour period within 0-6 feet indoors) may undergo a modified 10-day quarantine as follows. They may continue to attend school for in-person instruction if they:

- i. Are asymptomatic;
- ii. Continue to appropriately mask, as required;
- iii. Undergo at least twice weekly testing during the 10-day quarantine; and
- iv. Continue to quarantine for all extracurricular activities at school, including sports, and activities within the community setting.

Quarantine for unvaccinated [close contacts](#) who were not wearing masks or for whom the infected individual was not wearing a mask during the indoor exposure

For these contacts, those who remain asymptomatic (meaning they have NOT had any symptoms) may discontinue self-quarantine under the following conditions:

- i. Quarantine can end after Day 10 from the date of last exposure without testing; OR
- ii. Quarantine can end after Day 7 if a diagnostic specimen is collected after Day 5 from the date of last exposure and tests negative.

Asymptomatic close contacts must:

- i. Continue daily self-monitoring for symptoms through Day 14 from last known exposure; AND
- ii. Follow all recommended non-pharmaceutical interventions (e.g., wearing a mask when around others, hand washing, avoiding crowds) through Day 14 from last known exposure.

If any symptoms develop during this 14-day period, the exposed person must immediately isolate, get tested and contact their healthcare provider with any questions regarding their care.

Isolation

For both vaccinated and unvaccinated persons, follow the CDPH [Isolation Guidance](#) for those diagnosed with COVID-19.

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 virus 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

The SCOE:

- will maximize physical distance as much as possible while eating (especially indoors) and will arrange for eating outdoors as much as feasible.
- cleans frequently touched surfaces. Surfaces that come in contact with food will be washed, rinsed, and sanitized before and after meals.

Vaccination verification

The SCOE maintains any record of vaccination as confidential medical records.

For staff¹: Staff may submit verification of vaccine status by completing a confidential, online verification form with proof of vaccination attached.

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. Visitor recommendations- SCOE will:

- € review their rules for visitors and family engagement activities.
- € limit nonessential visitors, volunteers, and activities involving external groups or organizations with people who are not fully vaccinated, particularly in areas where there is moderate-to-high COVID-19 community transmission.
- € ensure direct service providers provide an attestation that they meet CDPH Guidelines for vaccinations and or weekly testing for non-vaccinated individuals.
- € limit the access of school visitors to current policies
- € 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.

¹ As explained by the [Department of Fair Employment and Housing, Employment-Information-on-COVID-19-FAQ_ENG.pdf](#) because the reasons that any given employee or applicant is not vaccinated may or may not be related to disability or religious creed, simply asking employees or applicants for proof of vaccination is not a disability-related inquiry, religious creed- related inquiry, or a medical examination

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 or who have recently had close contact with a person with COVID-19 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.
- 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.

Transportation: The SCOE includes provisions for:

- opening windows on school buses when transporting students, as feasible
- Adhering to face covering/masks guidelines on buses

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 updated COVID-19 Safety Plan (CSP), posted online as of 7/16/21**
- 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
- via text messages to staff and parents/caregivers
- with posted signage at all sites
- via staff and community surveys

- with informational videos
- translated documents

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 of 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.

Some classes may be quarantined as a precautionary measure while waiting for official verification.

Any unvaccinated staff or student with on-site presence is asked to quarantine if they live with, or have come into close contact with, a COVID positive individual.