

# Health and Safety

WSOC cannot prevent COVID 19 from entering our campuses. We are employing a multi-pronged approach to mitigate the risk of spread and make in-person school as physically, socially, and emotionally healthy and safe as possible for students, faculty, and families.

Specifics regarding health and safety approaches are continued in this document. The following list is a brief overview of what you can expect WSOC to implement and follow:

- Cohorting in stable, trackable, smaller pods.
- Monitoring symptoms, potential exposures, and cases on campus and at home, through daily health screening on our communication platform ParentSquare, and through our designated point person for health and safety protocols and compliance.
- Limiting time and exposure through personal hygiene, small cohorts, face coverings, increased cleaning, physical spacing, outdoor time, and ventilation.
- Space between seating, desks, and all work stations will be maximized.
- Students will bring their own meals, will practice physical distancing when eating, and will not share food items or eating utensils.
- Students and faculty will use personal reusable bottles at refillable stations.
- Shared items will be sanitized between use.
- We clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces (door handles, light switches, sink handles, bathrooms, tables, etc.), in addition to daily and weekly cleaning schedule.
- Drop off and arrival:
  - Staggered drop-off and pick up times
  - Separate entrances

## Safety Action Plan for WSOC

The following action plan developed by our Health and Safety Committee will be followed throughout campus during on-campus learning.

### **Promote Healthy Hygiene Practices**

- Proper hand hygiene will be promoted by education, modeling, and scheduling.
- Students and staff are to wash their hands before and after eating; after coughing or sneezing; after being outside; and before and after using the restroom.
- Adequate cleaning supplies will be maintained.
- Staff and students will be instructed to remain home if ill or in close contact (per CDC definition) with a person diagnosed with COVID-19.

- Staff will maintain a strict hygiene and cleaning regimen.
- Regarding facial coverings (cloth or plastic shields): Current public health guidance requires the use of facial coverings for all staff.
  - WSOC's return to school strategy regarding facial coverings will follow California Department of Public Health (CDPH) guidance issued July 17, 2020.
  - 1st and 2nd grade students are strongly encouraged to wear cloth face coverings if they can be worn properly. A face shield is an acceptable alternative for these students who cannot wear cloth face coverings properly.
  - Rising 3rd grade through 12th grade students must wear face coverings, unless exempted.
  - All faculty and staff must wear facial coverings (i.e., face covering or shield), unless exempted.
  - All on-campus visitors (vendors, parents, visitors, etc.) must use facial coverings.
  - Facial covering exemptions for faculty, staff and students are accepted per the CDPH *Guidance For The Use of Face Coverings* (revised November 16, 2020) publication. A Physician's note of restriction (not condition) is required for a medical condition, mental health condition, or a disability exemption not to wear a face covering or shield.
  - Persons exempted from wearing a face covering due to a medical condition who are employed in a job involving regular contact with others must wear a non-restrictive alternative, such as a face shield with a drape on the bottom edge, as long as their condition permits is.
  - When communicating with or assisting young children or those with special needs, a face shield can be used by faculty and staff as long as the wearer maintains physical distance from others, to the extent practicable. Faculty and staff must return to wearing a face covering or face shield outside of the classroom.

## Checking for Signs and Symptoms

- Daily screening procedures are recommended by all healthcare agencies for all students and staff.
- Families will be asked to check temperatures and screen for symptoms each morning at home prior to bringing their child to school, utilizing the ParentSquare platform to complete the Health Screening Questionnaire.
- ParentSquare will be monitored by our health and safety compliance staff member(s) to ensure completion of screening.
- If screening is not completed, the staff will have symptom checklists and no-touch thermometers to complete the screening, as necessary.
- Staff will also be encouraged to conduct visual wellness checks throughout the day.
- A child or staff member who is ill should remain at home.

- We utilize the OCHCA Student and Staff Symptom Decision Trees to evaluate student and staff health conditions on campus. If a child becomes ill during the day on campus, the child will be isolated, monitored by a faculty member (who will be wearing appropriate personal protective equipment, and the family will be contacted to pick up their child.
- Isolation area will be a specifically-designated and well-marked space that will effectively create a physically-distanced zone.

## Considerations for COVID-19 Exposure

- When a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19:
  - The school administrator will be informed and will work with WSOC's Health and Safety compliance staff member and the Orange County Health Care Agency (OCHCA) to implement next steps.
  - The need for cleaning, partial closure, or complete closure of the school will be examined, per CDPH guidelines, and OCHCA guidance.
  - The student or staff member who tested positive will be instructed to remain home and follow the guidance put forth by the CDPH and OCHCA.
  - The student or staff member will not be allowed to return to school until cleared, as per the guidelines put forth from CDPH and OCHCA.
- Students or staff members who have been in close contact (defined as being within 6 feet for at least a total of 15 minutes or more within 2 days prior to illness onset regardless of whether the contact was wearing a mask) with a person diagnosed with COVID-19 will also be instructed to stay home and consult with their healthcare provider regarding further evaluation and/or isolation.
- When a student or staff member is reported to be COVID +, the class/cohort and teacher(s)/staff member(s) with close contact with the student will be asked to quarantine for a period of 10 days from the last day of exposure. Exposed students and teachers/staff members can leave quarantine and return to school after 10 days if they remain asymptomatic.
- School Administrator will directly communicate with the school community regarding exposure of the campus via ParentSquare, our communication platform, while maintaining HIPAA and FERPA compliance.
- A decision for full school closure and transition to remote learning, following COVID-19 campus exposure, will be done in consultation with our healthcare partner, the OCHCA

All health and safety protocols, recommended by the Health and Safety Committee, will be implemented and strictly upheld under these scenarios. We will remain in direct contact with the Orange County Health Care Agency. We will continue to take steps to create a low risk environment with physical distancing, limiting sharing, outdoor activities, and hygiene practices.

## Training

All details of the health and safety plan were reviewed with faculty, parents and students prior to the start of on-campus learning. We will continue to update faculty, staff and families regarding updates and/or changes to the health and safety plans. Prior to the start of the academic year, faculty and staff attended a mandatory training session based on the health and safety guidelines, such as: instruction on how to properly put on and remove personal protective equipment, recognizing signs and symptoms of communicable disease, isolation of a sick child, and enhanced sanitation and disinfection protocols.

Protocols will be communicated with parents and families upon request and school leadership will be available to further discuss and review any questions or concerns.

We would like to highlight the following basic on-campus protocols and measures that public health agencies promote to help prevent the spread of COVID-19:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Always wash hands with soap and water when your hands are visibly dirty.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth. Covering coughs and sneezes.
- Stay home when you are sick. We ask you to strictly adhere to this policy.
- Cough or sneeze into your elbow or a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash and wash hands.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.

Classrooms and building are cleaned regularly by staff and our professional janitorial crew. In the advent of any positive cases, additional disinfecting is immediately performed in those areas. We work together with our janitorial staff and cleaning contractors to ensure proper deep cleaning, along with routine cleaning schedules. Throughout the school day, faculty and staff will adhere to diligent cleaning protocols, including the frequent wiping down of high touch surfaces. Bathroom surfaces will be wiped down with disinfectant throughout the day as well. Appropriate cleaning supplies and products will be readily available in all bathrooms, classrooms and other shared facility areas. Staff will maintain a strict hygiene and cleaning regimen.

All students and faculty will have proper access to hand sanitizer and handwashing areas and soap. As well, all faculty and staff will have adequate access to preferred facial coverings.

## Ventilation

Classes are held indoors in rooms with adequate ventilation (i.e., HVAC systems, windows, sliding doors), and outdoors in spaces created before school began in September.

## Outdoor Learning

We intend to spend a good part of the school day outside, in our beautiful outdoor spaces, to maximize safety and physical distancing for students in the same cohort. Using our beautiful outside space as much as possible is safe and can be optimized for rich and deep learning experiences. These opportunities for outdoor learning would afford students a broader more eco-conscious, sustainable and curative education. We believe that this opportunity would allow us to revolutionize education on a fundamental level. Skills students would obtain are critical thinking, collaboration and mindful thinking, all while gaining a deeper understanding and appreciation for nature.

A schedule will be managed to accommodate classes to learn outside as well as to avoid cross contamination of cohorts.

Countless hours have been dedicated to research, gathering of information, and problem solving. As part of this effort we have:

- Evaluated and reconfigured all learning spaces, offices, and shared workspaces to accommodate social distancing.
- Assessed the use of non-classroom space for instruction which can support physical distancing with cleaning between uses.
- Created and designed outdoor classrooms.

## Bathroom Protocols

Small groups of students (maximum of 3) are allowed into the restroom at any given time, and groups of students are maintained in their class cohorts.

Handwashing stations are strategically placed throughout the campus to support proper handwashing as well as prevent congested areas. Soap and hand sanitizer dispensers will be checked daily to ensure adequate supply and access. Paper towels will continue to be used to dry hands at all sinks throughout the grades campus.

## Cohorts

All class cohorts remain isolated during on-campus activities. Students use their own materials and desks/chairs regardless of learning environment. Cohorts do not intermix with other cohorts during the school day and there are no cross-class gatherings, assemblies, festivals, field trips, or performances. Within cohorts, students and teachers practice physical distancing and use essential protective equipment (EPE) as appropriate. Subject teachers can teach the cohort while practicing social distancing and handwashing and using facial coverings.

## Daily Operations

The following daily school operations are in place, during our time one campus, with community health and safety as our highest guiding principle.

- Daily health screenings for all students and employees and to track attendance and campus visits.
- Extensive safety protocols will be in place including daily disinfecting, smaller student cohorts, wearing of face coverings, enforced hand washing breaks, and maintaining a physical distance among all individuals on campus throughout the school day.
- Students will not have desk partners.
- Separate entrances assigned by grade to minimize large groups entering at same time.
- Staggered drop off and pick up times. No crossover between Early Childhood, Grades and High School.
- Additional adults on campus, aside from faculty will not be permitted.

## Family Agreements

One of the most important aspects of our reopening plan is for each WSOC family to maintain a similar level of vigilance regarding health and safety in their own households, just as we are requiring of children and teachers while in school. Any effort that we put into maintaining social distancing and cohort groups on campus will not be effective unless students and their families exercise a similar level of caution in the evenings and on the weekends. WSOC will adhere to a strict sick policy for all students and faculty during the 2020-2021 school year. The more that we can safeguard the individual health of each member of our community, the greater chance we have for an “in-person” school experience throughout the entire school year.

## Testing

Per the CDPH health and safety recommendations and waiver requirements, we have arranged for periodic screening of faculty and staff with voluntary weekly SARS-CoV-2 testing.