



COVID-19 Health and Safety Plan 2021-2022

August 15, 2021

We are so appreciative that together we as a school community successfully navigated our way through the challenges of last year. It required sacrifice and extra efforts by us all – students, parents, teachers, and administrative staff – to allow the students to experience the substance of a Waldorf education both on campus and through distance learning. We are grateful for the willingness of each of you to support the school despite a wide disparity of beliefs about the best approach to ensure a healthy environment for our school community.

Although the Delta variant has resulted in a recent surge of cases and new CDC recommendations have renewed debate about how to best respond in a school setting, we feel better prepared to face the ongoing uncertainty as we head into the 2021/22 school year. We understand the need to remain flexible and ready to meet changing circumstances, but we begin the school year with some reduced restrictions and are still hopeful for a return to normal school life in the not-too-distant future.

The purpose of this document is to provide details of our planning for the 2021/22 school year under these shifting conditions. Although we have some flexibility in determining how our school policies meet the unique needs and circumstances of our school community, our planning is guided by [COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools in California, 2021-22 School Year](#), released on August 2 by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) following the CDC's July 9 updated recommendations for K-12 schools. CDPH continues to assess conditions and will determine no later than November 1 whether to update mask requirements or recommendations.

WSOC's Health & Safety Committee reviewed the CDPH recommendations in formulating this Health and Safety Plan for the 2021-22 school year. The Plan is a working document and will be updated throughout the school year as necessary to reflect changes necessitated by shifting circumstances. Our first priority is to ensure a healthy and safe learning environment in order to bring high-quality Waldorf education to our students.

Key Points:

- Evidence suggests that K-12 schools that have implemented a multi-layered prevention strategy – as WSOC did in the 2020-21 school year – were able to be safely open for in-person instruction.
- WSOC's multi-layered 2021-22 plan includes: masks, cleaning and ventilation, promoting hand-hygiene, self-monitoring symptoms, managing visitor and family activities,

recommendations for staying home when sick and for testing, Orange County Health Care Agency (OCHCA) reporting and quarantining.

- COVID vaccination is a personal choice, and WSOC does not mandate vaccinations for students or teachers. However, we are required to follow a CDPH order issued on August 11 that requires all teachers in California to either be fully vaccinated or to undergo testing at least once per week.
- The school will institute modified drop off and pick up procedures. It is the continuing responsibility of parents and caregivers to assess their children daily before sending them to school, but we will not be utilizing the ParentSquare platform to report daily screenings. Drop off and pick up will continue in front of the school with staff on hand to assist students as they arrive.

Masks

- Masks are optional outdoors for all students and adults. (When doors are completely open, Meadows Hall is considered an outdoor space.)
- All students in Kindergarten through Grade 12 are required to wear cloth masks while indoors, with the following exceptions:
 - Students with a mask exemption (see below).
 - When a student is eating or drinking (lunch, snack). (When a mask is temporarily removed, it should be placed in a clean, safe area.)
 - When a student is engaging in an educational activity that cannot be performed while wearing a mask (e.g., actively playing a wind instrument).
- Pre-Kindergarten students are encouraged to wear cloth face coverings if they can be worn properly. A face shield is another alternative for the students who cannot wear cloth face coverings properly.
- All adults, regardless of vaccination status, are required to wear masks when sharing indoor spaces with students, with the following provisions:
 - Adults exempted from wearing a mask must wear a non-restrictive alternative if their restriction permits it (e.g., a face shield with a drape on the bottom edge). If a non-restrictive alternative is not possible, appropriate physical distancing must be practiced.
 - While providing a service to a student with a disability or diverse ability (including but not limited to a hearing impairment), where visual cues, facial expressions and/or lip reading/movements are important, adults may use a non-restrictive alternative or physical spacing as practicable.
 - All adults, especially non-vaccinated adults, are encouraged to wear a mask when in close proximity to other adults and not in the presence of students.
- Exemptions: Facial covering exemptions for students, faculty, staff and vendors are accepted per the CDPH *Guidance on the Use of Face Coverings* (revised July 28, 2021). A physician's note of restriction is required for a medical condition, mental health condition, or a disability

exemption. Exemptions recognized last year will carry over into this school year. Please submit exemption requests to the School Administrator.

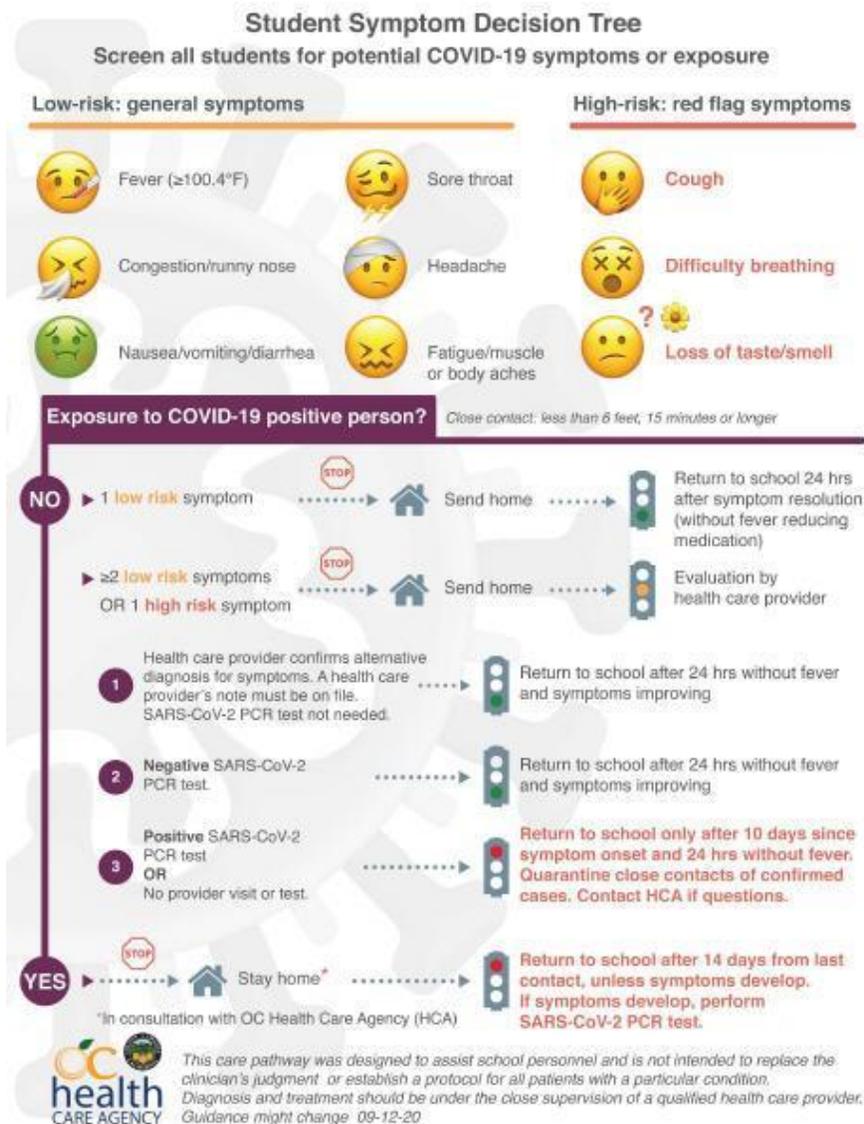
- Disposable masks are available for students, faculty/staff, and visitors who do not remember to bring a cloth mask to the school.

Physical Distancing

- As noted in the CDPH guidance, “recent evidence indicates that in-person instruction can occur safely without minimum physical distancing requirements when other mitigation strategies (e.g., masking) are implemented.” Physical distancing (3-6 feet) must continue to be practiced when other mitigation strategies are not possible.

Self-Monitoring for Illness

- It is the continuing responsibility of parents of students and employees to self-monitor their health each day before coming to campus by utilizing the OCHCA Student and Staff Symptom Decision Trees. The school utilizes these same “trees” for determination on sending ill students home.



- Students should not be sent to school if they are displaying COVID-related symptoms. Students who experience seasonal allergies or other COVID-19-like symptoms that are related to an existing condition can continue to attend school when they are experiencing these symptoms as normal. If they experience any change in symptoms, they should seek assessment by a health-care provider.
- If a staff member or other adult has any COVID-related symptoms, they must not enter the school.
- Parents, students and employees must follow the strategy for Staying Home when Sick and Getting Tested from the CDC.
- Students and staff with symptoms of COVID-19 infection must not return for in-person instruction until they have met CDPH criteria to return to school:
 - At least 24 hours have passed since resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications; and
 - Other symptoms have improved; and
 - 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, OR at least 10 days have passed since symptom onset.

Case Reporting and Contact Tracing

- When a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, the School Administrator should be informed immediately and will report within 24 hours to OCHCA.
- Contract tracing will be completed and 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 along with any identified close contacts are instructed to remain at home. The school and the individuals at home follow the quarantine, symptom monitoring, testing and return to campus guidance put forth by the CDPH and OCHCA.
- The School Administrator will communicate with the school community regarding exposures via ParentSquare.

Quarantining

- Per CDPH, quarantining for close contacts follows these recommendations:
 - Vaccinated close contacts follow the CDPH Fully Vaccinated People Guidance regarding quarantine. Generally, this means that they should be tested 3-5 days following the date of their exposure and wear a mask in public indoor settings for 14 days or until they receive a negative test result.
 - Unvaccinated students with exposures when both parties were wearing a mask as required in K-12 indoor settings may undergo a modified quarantine as follows:
 - They may continue to attend school for in-person instruction if they
 - Are asymptomatic;

- Continue to appropriately mask, as required;
 - Undergo at least twice weekly testing during the 10-day quarantine; and
 - Continue to quarantine for all extracurricular activities at school, including sports, and activities within the community setting.
- Unvaccinated students who were not wearing a mask or for whom the infected individual was not wearing a mask may discontinue quarantine if they remain asymptomatic as follows:
 - Quarantine can end after Day 10 from the date of last exposure without testing; or
 - Quarantine can end after Day 7 if a diagnostic specimen is collected after Day 5 from the date of last exposure and tests negative.
- To discontinue quarantine before 14 days following last known exposure, asymptomatic close contacts must:
 - Continue daily self-monitoring for symptoms through Day 14 from last known exposure; AND
 - Follow all recommended non-pharmaceutical interventions (e.g., wearing a mask when around others, hand washing, avoiding crowds) through Day 14 from last know exposure.
- For both vaccinated and unvaccinated persons, follow the CDPH Isolation Guidance for those diagnosed with COVID-19.

Cleaning, Ventilation and Hand Hygiene

- Our professional janitorial staff clean five days a week.
- If a person has been sick with COVID-19 within the last 24 hours, the space they occupied will be cleaned and disinfected immediately.
- Classes are held in indoor and outdoor spaces. The indoor spaces provide ample ventilation (i.e., HVAC systems, windows, sliding doors). As is common in Waldorf schools, outdoor programs will continue to be a common practice.
- Handwashing is promoted multiple times during the school day. Soap and hand sanitizer dispensers are 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.
- Handwashing stations are strategically placed throughout the campus to support proper handwashing as well as prevent congested areas.

Visitors and Family Activities

- Visitor access inside school buildings is prioritized to those supporting activities that benefit student learning and well-being or for other limited activities. When possible, these activities should be held outdoors. All visitors must wear a non-medical mask at all times when they are inside the school, per CDPH guidelines. In order to enter the building, visitors will be required to sign in at the front office with their name and phone number in order to facilitate contact tracing.