



# COVID-19 Health and Safety Plan 2022-2023

August 1, 2022

We move into the 2022-2023 school year with hope and expectations for recovery and renewal after several years of extraordinary health crises and challenges. We are appreciative of the resilience and perseverance of our school community—students, parents, teachers, and administrative staff—in facing these challenges.

The school's Health & Safety Committee was formed in response to the pandemic and was limited in scope to managing COVID-19 related exigencies. With the recognition that WSOC is responsible for providing a safe environment for students, staff and visitors by ensuring that the school is free of known health and safety hazards, and the recognition that this involves more than pandemic response planning, the Board of Trustees has mandated a Health and Safety Mandate Group (HSMG) to ensure that all aspects of school operation are in accordance with local, state, and federal public health and safety mandates and guidelines. The group will operate in an advisory capacity to the school administration, which is primarily responsible for carrying out health and safety compliance tasks.

This document provides details of our planning for the 2022/23 school year in regard to COVID-19 mitigation. 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 to Support Safe In-Person Learning, 2022-2023 School Year](#), released on June 30, 2022, by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH). In addition, we follow the orders of the Orange County Health Officer, who has the authority to establish additional guidance, including required actions for K-12 school settings in Orange County in response to relevant local considerations.

This 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:

- Although the CDPH continues to strongly recommend masking in indoor settings, the universal masking requirement was lifted last March and the use of masks continues to be voluntary, indoors and outdoors. Any individual who desires to wear a mask, however, is welcome to do so.
- It is the continuing responsibility of parents and caregivers to assess their children daily before sending them to school. Please do not send children to school if they exhibit symptoms of contagious diseases, including COVID-19.
- Even when students have been exposed to COVID-19 at school or in other settings, all students, regardless of vaccination status or previous COVID-19 disease, may continue to attend school so long as they are free of any symptoms. It is recommended that all students who have been exposed be tested 3-5 days following exposure.

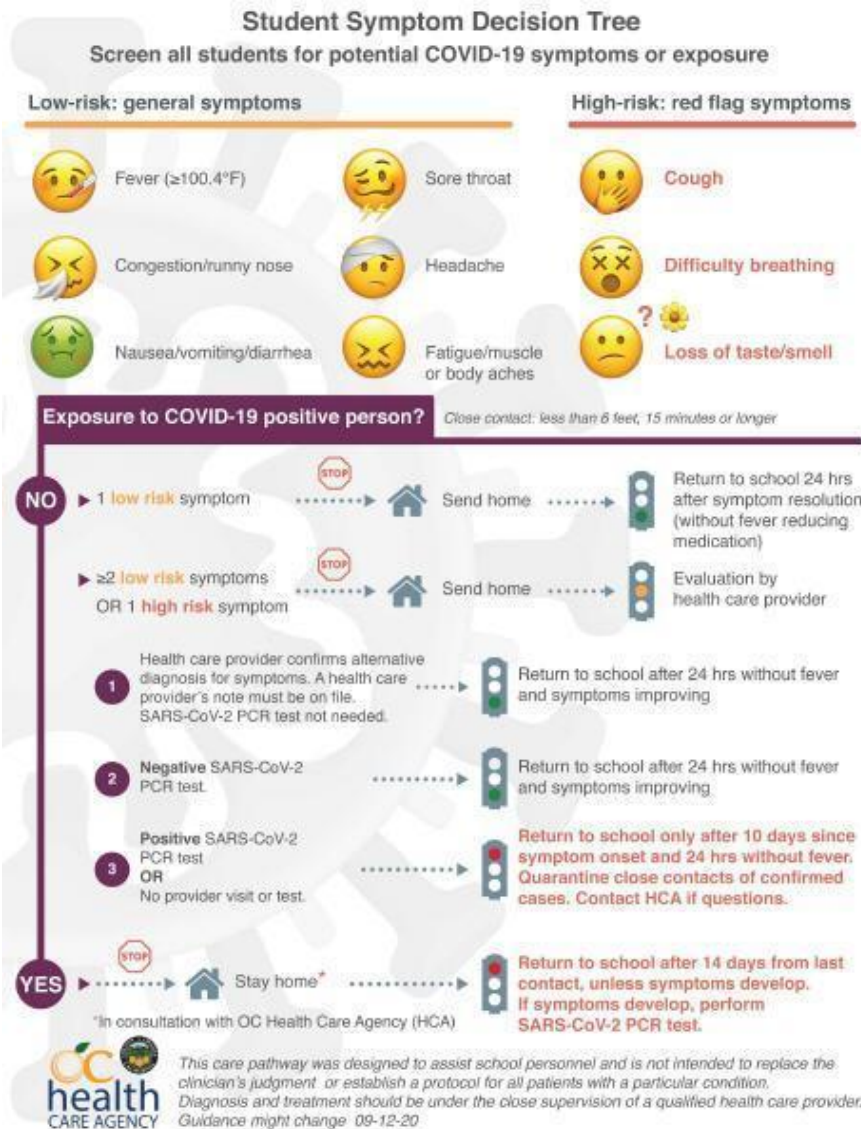
- Anyone with COVID-19 symptoms should isolate at home while awaiting testing results.
- Anyone who tests positive for COVID-19 should stay at home at least 5 days after start of symptoms (or after date of first positive test if no symptoms). Isolation can end after Day 5 if symptoms are not present or are resolving and an antigen test is negative.
- COVID-19 vaccination remains a personal choice, and WSOC does not mandate vaccinations for students or teachers. However, at this time it has been confirmed that we are still required to follow a CDPH order issued on August 11, 2021, that requires all teachers in California to either be fully vaccinated or to undergo testing at least once per week.
- Drop off and pick up will continue in front of the school.

## Masks

- Wearing a mask is still “strongly recommended” by the CDPH regardless of vaccine status, but there is no requirement to do so.
- An effective mask has both good fit and filtration. It should be snug to the face, cover the nose, and have no gaps around the edges. It should be made with material that filters air well enough to block viruses. KF94 and KN95 masks are available in kids’ sizes and offer good fit and filtration. Although N95s also provide excellent fit and filtration, they will not fit smaller faces. Kid-sized medical masks provide good filtration, but do not provide a tight fit.
- The CDPH requires that 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., water sports).
- Disposable surgical masks are available for students, faculty/staff, and visitors upon request for those who desire to use one as required by the CDPH.

## 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 (see next page). 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 or symptoms of other contagious diseases, such as conjunctivitis or flu. 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.



## If Students Have Been Exposed

The School Administrator will contact the community through Parent Square when a positive case of COVID-19 has been reported and has led to possible exposures at school. All students, regardless of vaccination status or previous COVID-19 disease, may continue to attend school so long as they are free of any symptoms. If symptoms develop, please follow the recommendations below for quarantining.

It is recommended that students who have been exposed be tested 3-5 days following exposure.

Per the CDPH masking guidance, those who have been exposed should consider wearing a well-fitting mask around others for a total of 10 days, especially in indoor settings and when near those at higher risk for severe COVID-19 disease.

## Quarantining and Isolation

Quarantine is when you stay home and away from others if you have been exposed to someone who has COVID-19 in case you also get the infection. It is good to quarantine if you are more likely to get sick and spread the virus to others, or if you might be near someone who could get really sick if they got COVID-19. Isolation is when you stay home and away from others, even in your household. Isolation is for people who are sick or who test positive for COVID-19.

The CDPH recommends that all persons **with COVID-19 symptoms**, regardless of vaccination status or previous infection, should:

- Self-isolate and test as soon as possible to determine infection status. Knowing one is infected early during self-isolation enables (a) earlier access to treatment options, if indicated (especially for those that may be at risk for severe illness), and (b) notification of exposed persons (close contacts) who may also benefit by knowing if they are infected.
  - For symptomatic persons who have tested positive within the previous 90 days, using an antigen test is preferred.
- Remain in isolation while waiting for testing results. If not tested, they should continue isolating for 10 days after the day of symptom onset, and if they cannot isolate, should wear a well-fitting mask for 10 days.
- Consider continuing self-isolation and retesting with an antigen or PCR test in 1-2 days if testing negative with an antigen test, particularly if tested during the first 1-2 days of symptoms.
- Continue to self-isolate if test result is positive, follow recommended actions, and contact their healthcare provider about available treatments if symptoms are severe or they are at high risk for serious disease or if they have any questions concerning their care.

For those who have **tested positive for COVID-19**, the CDPH recommends:

- Stay home for at least 5 days after start of symptoms (or after date of first positive test if no symptoms).
- Isolation can end after Day 5 if symptoms are not present or are resolving and a diagnostic specimen collected on Day 5 or later tests negative (antigen test preferred). Date of positive test or first symptoms = Day 0.
- If unable to test, choosing not to test, or testing positive on Day 5 (or later), isolation can end after Day 10 if fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications.
- If fever is present, isolation should be continued until 24 hours after fever resolves.
- If symptoms, other than fever, are not resolving, continue to isolate until symptoms are resolving or until after Day 10. If symptoms are severe, or if the infected person is at high risk of serious disease, or if they have questions concerning care, infected persons should contact their healthcare provider for available treatments.
- Per CDPH masking guidance, infected persons should wear a well-fitting mask around others for a total of 10 days, especially in indoor settings.
- Those who develop symptom shall isolate as described above.
- Recommendation to undergo testing 3 to 5 days after exposure.
- Wear a well-fitting mask. If unable to wear a mask due to a documented mask exemption, the student must quarantine at home until the student has obtained a negative result for the test administered on Day 3 to 5.
- Students who participate in activities where it is not practicable to participate with a mask on will refrain from that activity until a negative result for the test administered on Day 3 to 5.

## Case Reporting

- When a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, the School Administrator should be informed immediately.
- The student or staff member who tested positive is 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.

## **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. In order to enter the building, visitors are required to sign in at the front office with their name and phone number.