

2021 - 2022 COVID19 Safety Plan and School Guidance Checklist Amendment

Updated February 9, 2022

Amended practices below take precedence over any related protocols as stated in [COVID19 Safety Plan and School Guidance Checklist](#) (as updated on 8/28/2021), however any practices not discussed here will be continued. Continued review and revision will occur at least every 6 months in order to be in alignment with guidance from the CDPH that will be modified throughout the year based on local and state guidance and mandates.

<p>Sonoma County Guidance Packet (Guiding Document)</p>	<p>Sonoma County COVID-19 Guidance Packet for Schools, Children, and Other Youth Settings dated January 20,2022. All future guidance packets will be used as a guiding document.</p>
<p>Other References</p>	<p>CDPH Guidance on Isolation and Quarantine</p> <p>CDPH K-12 Guidance</p> <p>CDPH K-12 Q&A / FAQ</p> <p>CDPH K-12 Group-Tracing Approach</p> <p>CDPH Guidance for Child Care Providers and Programs</p> <p>Cal/OSHA Emergency Temporary Standards (ETS)-</p>
<p>Isolation and Quarantine</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sonoma County has officially aligned with the updated CDPH Guidance for Isolation and Quarantine. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Guidance for Local Health Jurisdictions on Isolation and Quarantine of the General Public ○ COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools in California, 2021-22 School Year (January 12, 2022) ● All positive cases will follow CDPH Isolation for General Public. (January 8, 2022) ● Staff will follow CDPH Quarantine for General Public .(January 8, 2022) ● TK-12 students will follow K-12 Quarantine Options with a change to 5-10 days (Standard or Modified) OR they will follow Group-Tracing Approach for students in K-12 settings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Schools and districts have discretion when determining if modified or group-tracing will be implemented. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Group-Tracing Approach to Students Exposed to COVID-19 in a K-12 setting (January 12, 2022) ● A negative test is required in order to shorten quarantine or isolation. ● GUSD will utilize the most current COVID19 Guidance Packet for Schools, Childcare, and Other Youth Settings for the following groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Vaccinated Individuals ● Unvaccinated Close Contacts

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Unvaccinated Close Contacts - Students Only ● Unvaccinated Employees ● Unvaccinated Close Contacts without Masks
COVID Vaccination Requirements	<p>Staff</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Per state and local mandate, all unvaccinated staff will be required to be up-to-date with their COVID vaccination (i.e. having received their booster OR are not yet due for a booster and are fully vaccinated). ● If this requirement is not met by February 1, 2022, staff will be required to test twice weekly. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Note 1/27/2022: Because of a communitywide lack of consistent and reliable access to COVID-19 tests, Dr. Mase is amending a separate health order that requires all school staff and volunteers get a booster shot by Feb. 1 or submit to twice-weekly testing. The booster shot deadline of Feb. 1 remains in effect, but those personnel who have not yet been boosted do not have to submit to twice-weekly testing until March 1 if they do not have access to tests. The current requirement that unvaccinated workers be tested weekly remains in effect. <p>Students</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students are not required to have their COVID vaccination. <p>Other Partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Other on-site people (to include volunteers, family members, and partners) will follow the more stringent school staff COVID vaccination requirement, which currently means that testing will not be offered to waive the COVID vaccination requirement.
Positive Cases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Schools shall only report to the county health department the cases that are involved with school-related exposures. ● The Sonoma County Health Department has the following resources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 211 - Sonoma County ○ Coronavirus Response - Sonoma County Emergency and Preparedness Information ○ Blue Flyer COVID Resources (English) ○ Blue Flyer COVID Resources (Spanish)
Close Contacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Close contact is defined as being within 6 feet of an individual for a total of 15 minutes (or more) over the course of a day – OR briefly <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● having direct physical contact with a COVID-19 Case (hugged, kissed, etc.) ● providing direct care for someone sick with COVID-19 ● having been sneezed/coughed on by a COVID-19 Case ● sharing eating/drinking utensils with a COVID-19 Case
COVID 19 Testing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● GUSD will offer the recommended testing for all staff, students, volunteers, partners, and family members. ● Symptomatic testing will also be offered as needed. ● Testing will depend on the availability of tests, which have lately been in short supply. ● Required testing frequency for isolation, quarantine, and employment will be provided as detailed in the COVID19 Guidance Packet for Schools, Childcare, and Other Youth Settings.
Self-Tests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Over the counter, at-home, or self-tests are now acceptable forms of testing, as long as they are FDA approved (EUA for COVID-19 diagnosis), and the results are verified by the school. ● Best practices for verification of self-test results include the following <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Use a digital (app-based) platform for test verification, which often includes scanning barcodes; these are available for certain brands of self-tests. ○ Write the name and date on the test card results and send a picture of the card to the requesting entity. ○ Create an attestation form and require signature declaring that the test

	<p>specimen was obtained from the individual represented on the form, include the date the specimen was collected, and that the test was processed according to the instructions provided.</p>
<p>Reducing on-site transmission</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Reminders and strategies to reduce on-site transmission <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The initial CDPH guidance on “closing classrooms” has expired, and there is no current guidance on “outbreak management.” ○ CDPH has consistently emphasized the importance of keeping students in school while focusing on increasing mitigation measures to prevent onsite transmission. ○ Re-evaluate onsite mitigation factors (masking, quarantine/isolation adherence) to identify any gaps. ○ Increase ventilation: open windows or hold class outdoors (if weather or space permits). ○ Stay in assigned seats as much as possible; temporarily suspend group activities. ○ Test EVERYONE in the group, not just those you identify as close contacts. ○ Focus on consistent masking with high-quality masks. ○ Reinforce symptom monitoring; anyone with symptoms should go home.
<p>CDPH Masking Guidelines</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Masks are required outdoors unless physically distanced 6 feet or more from others. ● K-12 students and staff are required to wear masks indoors, with exemptions per CDPH face mask guidance. ● Exempted individuals must wear a non-restrictive alternative such as a face shield with a drape at the bottom as long as their condition permits it. Mental health exemption must come from a medical provider and be followed up with a 504 plan. ● Schools must develop protocols to enforce the mask requirements and offer alternative educational options for students who are excluded from campus because they will not wear a face covering. ● When a mask can’t be used for teaching or developmental reasons, a face shield with a drape can be used instead.
<p>Students with Disabilities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students with disabilities that prevent the use of a face covering will not be excluded from in-person learning. ● Each student case that involves a student with disabilities and potential challenges with mask wearing must be considered on an individual basis by the IEP team. ● The new rules on Independent Study only apply to students with disabilities if the IEP team has determined that Independent Study is the best placement for a student with disabilities.
<p>CDPH Masking Guidelines for Staff</p>	<p>In staff break rooms, restrooms, offices, etc., school staff (regardless of vaccine status) must follow local public health face covering order and Cal/OSHA guidance which allows individuals to remove their masks indoors ONLY when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● They are alone in a closed office or room ● They are actively eating or drinking ● If another CDPH exception applies
<p>No Physical Distancing Required</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The CDPH states, “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.”
<p>Indoor or Outdoor Gatherings</p>	<p><u>https://socoemergency.org/order-of-the-health-officer-c19-35/</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Events can have up to 50 spectators, rather than 50 people total, including participants. Masking requirements, including that all spectators, staff, media and athletes who are not actively exerting themselves be masked, remain in effect. Social distancing of 6 feet between cohorts from the same household is recommended. Individual school districts, school sites or

	<p>athletic leagues can determine how best to comply with the attendance limits, but a fair and transparent ticketing system that can aid schools in contact tracing is strongly recommended. Please also remember that any athlete who has been released from isolation or quarantine must be masked for 5-10 days after release, including during participation in sports. In a call with leaders from SCOE and the county's largest high school districts on Wednesday, Dr. Mase stressed that case rates and hospitalization rates appear to have stabilized, and that she hopes with continued community vigilance, they will soon begin dropping. She acknowledged the health order's impacts on students and their families and expressed appreciation for their efforts to keep our school communities safe. The health order is set to expire on Feb. 11 unless revised or extended.</p>
<p>Food Service</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We will maximize physical distance as much as possible, use additional outdoor spaces to maximize distance while eating, and clean frequently touched surfaces before and after meals.
<p>COVID School Exposure Flowchart</p>	<p>County Public Health has updated the Graphic Flowchart which outlines the Student Quarantine Protocol for In-School Exposure (TK-12) in both English and Spanish. This November 24 issue aligns with recent CDPH guidelines and supersedes previous versions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <u>School Exposure Flowchart - English</u> ● <u>School Exposure Flowchart - Spanish</u>
<p>Visitors</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We will limit nonessential visitors, volunteers, and activities involving external groups or organizations with people who are not fully vaccinated. ● Will will not limit access for direct service providers but will ensure compliance with school visitor policies. ● We will 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.