



**Conejo Valley Unified School District**

# **COVID-19 SAFETY PLAN**

**ENABLING A SAFE RETURN TO IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION  
AND CONTINUITY OF SERVICES**



**CVUSD  
FORWARD**

Newbury Park - Thousand Oaks - Westlake Village



*Revised November 2022*



# CONEJO VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

## COVID-19 SAFETY PLAN

ENABLING A SAFE RETURN TO INPERSON INSTRUCTIONS AND CONTINUITY OF SERVICES

Revised November 14, 2022

### Introduction

Seeing the undisputed benefits of in-person instruction, CVUSD sought to make on campus instruction available to students as soon as it was deemed safe to do so. In the fall of 2020 the district developed, in accordance with State and County health department guidelines, a Reopening and COVID-19 Mitigation Plan that was reviewed and approved by the Ventura County Office of Education. By implementing this plan, the district was able, over a period of months, to safely provide in-person instruction for all grade levels. We have continued to update our plan, as revised guidance has been issues by the health departments. For the 22-23 school year, we have built upon this success by making in-person instruction available to all CVUSD students within a safe environment.

### 1. Collaboration with State and County Agencies

- a) The revision of this plan is based upon the health and safety recommendations and requirements issued by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) for K-12 schools and Cal OSHA COVID-19 Emergency Temporary Standards as they apply to district staff. We depend upon these specialized agencies to provide current and effective guidelines for the safe operation of our schools during this pandemic.
- b) The district will continue to monitor the CDPH websites for updated guidance and revise this plan accordingly. In cases were the VCPH issues guidance that is stricter, or adds clarification to the State guidelines, our plan will follow the County's directives.
- c) To ensure the safety of district employees, Cal OSHA requires that the district have in place a COVID-19 Prevention Plan (CPP). The district has had a CPP in place since early 2020 and continues to revise this plan as changes in the Emergency Temporary Standards that governs the plan are issued. Wherever regulations permit, the district will harmonize the prevention protocols contained within the CSP that apply to all persons on campus with those within the CPP that are applicable to employees.
- d) The district will continue to meet all reporting requirement for COVID-19 cases as set forth by the State and County agencies and to collaborate with the VCPH in preforming contact tracing to limit the spread of this disease.
- e) If an outbreak occurs, as defined by the Cal OSHA regulations and a VCPH determination, the district will comply with quarantine, testing, disinfection, and facility closure as directed by the VCPH.

### 2. Engagement with Parent and Staff

- a) Information about the safety measures contained in this plan will be communicated to staff by multiple communication means including website postings, memos, emails, facility postings, and employee training.

- b) Parents will be informed of current prevention measures by way of website postings, mass communication messaging, and parent forums. Critical information needed regarding the isolation of a sick child and quarantine requirements for students who are a close contact to a positive case will be posted on the district website. Parents will receive written notification should a positive case occur on campus that could affect their child.
- c) Students will be reminded of essential prevention measures such as hand hygiene and the proper use of a face coverings (when applicable) by staff instruction and signage posted around campus.
- d) The district website contains a link to review frequently asked questions this FAQ is available to view online.
- e) The district will support the County's vaccination efforts by sharing, through its website and included with communications to parents and staff, information on free vaccination events within the community.

### 3. Continuity of Educational Services

- a) Information on the district's provisions for accommodating students who cannot attend school due to isolation, quarantine, or other reasons, may be found on the [CVUSD's 2022-2023 School Year Frequently Asked Questions document](#).

## Safety Measures

### 1. Masks

- a) Masks are optional outdoors for all in Pre K-Post Secondary School settings.
- b) As the CDPH has lifted the universal indoor mask requirement for Pre K-Post Secondary as of March 12, 2022 and has issued revised guidance for schools , [CDPH K-12 Guidance 22-23](#) the wearing of a mask indoors is now strongly recommend, but not required.
- c) The wearing of a facemask on a school bus or other district provided transportation for students is optional. When practicable and safe, CDPH recommends optimizing air quality by opening windows to create more ventilation.
- d) Persons exempted from wearing a face covering due to a medical condition, may wear a non-restrictive alternative, such as a face shield with a drape on the bottom edge, as long as their condition permits it.
- e) Schools will provide a face covering to students and staff who request one.
- f) CVUSD seeks to align its policy with recommendations provided by CDC on the characteristics of an effective face covering [CDC Recs](#). The district will make available to students and staff face masks that meet these recommendations.

### 2. Physical Distancing

- a) In general, physical distancing is not required. Physical distancing maybe implemented in certain circumstances as specified in the district's COVID-19 Prevention Plan such as in a work site outbreak.

### 3. Ventilation

The following action is being taken to reduce the spread of the virus through aerosols:

- a) Maximize the infusion of outdoor air by maximizing the HVAC fresh air intake and keeping windows and doors open as practical.
- b) Maintain MERV-13 filtration on HVAC systems where feasible.
- c) Use portable HEPA air filtration units in rooms with higher potential for aerosol spread and rooms with no ventilation or poorly functioning ventilation systems.

### 4. Self- Screen for COVID-19

- a) Parents of students who exhibit symptoms of a potentially serious communicable disease will be apprised of the symptoms of concern and asked to pick up their child from school.
- b) Staff, students, and parents will be provided with information on how to self-screen for symptoms of COVID-19 and instructed not to come to school/work if they have symptoms. Testing of persons with COVID-19 symptoms is recommended and home test kits will be distributed to staff and students for this purpose.

## 5. Protocols for Handling Sick Students or Close Contacts

- a) Any student who develops new, unexplained symptoms should not return to campus until it is clear that symptoms are mild and improving or are due to a non-infectious cause (e.g., allergies). This includes waiting until 24 hours have passed since resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications. It is strongly recommended that all students exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 be tested and follow standard isolation protocols unless the symptoms are typical of their underlying chronic condition (e.g., allergies or asthma) OR a healthcare provider has confirmed an alternative named diagnosis.
- b) Standard Isolation Protocols: If a student with symptoms tests negative then they can return to school/work after 24 hours with no fever without the use of fever reducing medication and symptoms have improved. If a student tests positive, they should isolate for a minimum of five days beginning with the day after symptoms began or the day after testing positive. They may return after day six if they test negative on day 5 or after and have no fever and other symptoms are improving.
- c) The district will follow Cal OSHA standards for an employee testing positive for COVID-19 as stated in the district's COVID-19 Prevention Plan.
- d) The Group-Tracing approach will be applied for student and staff, regardless of their COVID-19 vaccination status, exposed to a person who tests positive for COVID-19. The protocols for this approach are as follows:

1. Notification will be sent to exposes employees and the parents of students who spent more than a cumulative total of 15 minutes (within a 24-hour time period) in a shared indoor airspace (e.g., classroom) with someone with COVID-19 during their period of infectiousness.

- a. Notification will occur to "groups" of exposed students/employees (e.g., classmates, teammates, cohorts, etc.) rather than contact tracing to identify individual "close contacts" (e.g., those within 6 feet).

- b. Notifications will be provided regardless of vaccination status or recovery from COVID-19 within the last 90 days.

- c. A standard notification letter will be used to ensure consistency and completeness in communications.

2. Exposed students/staff, regardless of COVID-19 vaccination status, will be instructed to be tested for COVID-19 with at least one diagnostic test obtained within 3-5 days after last exposure, unless they had COVID-19 within the last 90 days.

- a. Exposed students/staff who had COVID-19 within the last 90 days should monitor for symptoms. If symptoms develop, they should isolate and get tested with an antigen test.

- b. In the event of wide-scale and/or repeated exposures, broader (e.g., grade-wide or campus-wide) once weekly testing for COVID-19 may be considered until such time that exposure events become less frequent.

- c. Any FDA-authorized antigen diagnostic test, PCR diagnostic test, or pooled PCR test is acceptable for evaluation of an individual's COVID-19 status. For individuals who have been recently infected (within the past 90 days), antigen testing is strongly recommended as PCR results may remain persistently positive and not be indicative of a new active infection. Repeat antigen testing and/or confirmatory molecular testing should be considered in individuals who receive a negative result with an antigen test but have symptoms specific for COVID-19 (such as loss of taste and smell). At-home testing, also known as over-the-counter (OTC) testing, is permitted to evaluate the status of a student/staff who is in isolation, quarantine, or received a notification of exposure.

3. Exposed students may continue to take part in all aspects of K-12 schooling, including sports and extracurricular activities, unless they develop symptoms of COVID-19. They should test as recommended in Section (2), report positive test results to the school, and follow other components of this guidance, including wearing masks as is strongly recommended.

- a. Exposed students/staff who develop symptoms should see Section 4 of the [K-12 Guidance](#).
- b. Exposed students/staff who receive a positive test result should isolate in accordance with Section 10 of the [K-12 Guidance](#).
- c. Exposed persons should wear a well-fitting mask around others for a total of 10 days following the last date of exposure.

## **6. Routine Screening Testing**

- a) Routine (surveillance) Testing will be conducted, as community transmission and VCPH require.
- b) Routine Testing will be conducted per our CPP protocols for an outbreak.
- c) Under a current CDPH health order, unvaccinated school workers are required to provide evidence of a negative test weekly or 72 hours in advance of an irregular service. (See section 9)
- d) The District has partnered with VCPH in establishing a testing site located at 1336 Janss Road, Thousand Oaks (next to their District Educational Center) to provide free antigen testing for school staff, students, and the greater community.
- e) OTC/Home test kits have been distributed to staff and parents of students for testing when symptoms are present, post-positive testing to return to school/work or when exposed to a positive case.

## **7. Hand Hygiene**

- a) School staff will teach and reinforce washing hands, and mouth, and covering coughs and sneezes.
- b) Schools will promote hand washing throughout the day, especially before and after eating, after using the toilet, and after handling garbage, or removing gloves.
- c) The Purchasing Department and custodial staff will ensure adequate supplies are on hand to support healthy hygiene behaviors, including soap, tissues, and no-touch trashcans, face coverings, and hand sanitizers with at least 60 percent ethyl alcohol for staff and children who can safely use hand sanitizer.

## **8. Cleaning**

- a) The current CDPH guidance states, “In general, routine cleaning is enough to sufficiently remove the virus that causes COVID-19. Therefore, routine cleaning protocols appropriate for school environment will be followed.
- b) Disinfection will be applied in cases of known or suspected surface contamination with bodily fluids. Bodily fluids would include droplets from coughing and sneezing from someone having tested positive for COVID-19 and occupied the space within the last 24 hours.
- c) Disinfection will be performed according to standard procedures and with EPA listed disinfectants.

## **9. Food Service**

- a) Surfaces within the food prep and service areas will be cleaned per standard practice. Dining tables will be washed, rinsed, and sanitized before and after meals.

## **10. Vaccination Verification**

- a) Based upon the health order issued by the CDPH on August 11, 2021, the District will obtain vaccination verification for all “workers” as defined in the order [CDPH Order 8-11-21](#) . All unvaccinated employees, volunteers, and contractors who provide services to students, regardless of job assignment or placement, will be required to undergo diagnostic screening testing on at least a weekly basis as a condition of employment or paid/unpaid service. One time on-site service providers and presenters are not considered “workers” for the purpose of this policy.

## **11. Outbreak Determination**

- a) In order to avoid any unnecessary anxiety or disruption of instructional services, the District will continue its ongoing collaboration with the VCPH. Based upon the VCPH’s professional investigation, an outbreak will be determined and additional mitigation measures will be taken as required.
- b) Per the CDPH, “California is committed to preserving the safety and success of in-person instruction at K-12 schools.” A temporary school closure due to COVID-19 would be a last resort and considered only after all available resources have been exhausted in an attempt to preserve in-person education. A temporary school closures would be considered only after conferring with the VCPH COVID-19 School Outbreak Team and with the Public Health Officer. There is no specific case threshold at which the State recommends an immediate temporary closure of a classroom or school.

## 12. Reinstatement of Additional COVID-19 Control Measures

- a) From the beginning of the pandemic, the district has relied upon State and local health officials to provide guidance on necessary control measures that support a safe learning environment for its students and a safe work place for its employees and contractors. The district will continue to rely upon, and adhere to, control measures required by the CDPH and any additional measures stipulated by the VCPH.
- b) If an outbreak of COVID-19 were to occur at any of our facilities or a spike in community transmission, the district would look to the VCPH for direction on any additional control measures that are necessary to reduce transmission on our campuses.

## 13. COVID-19 Testing Framework

- a) In order to comply with Senate Bill 1479 and establish a testing framework, the district will comply with the requirements of the CDPH publication [Testing Framework for K–12 Schools for the 2022–2023 School Year \(ca.gov\)](#) which includes the following:
  - **Identify** a COVID Testing Point of Contact to facilitate communication and coordination with the CA Testing Task Force along with other relevant agencies or organizations that oversee school operations.
  - **Review** and reference current testing recommendations provided in the [CDPH K-12 School COVID Guidance](#) and any additional recommendations or requirements provided by the Local Health Jurisdiction.
  - **Maintain** situational awareness of the [testing resources and programs offered by the CA Testing Task Force](#) and monitor availability of pre-positioned testing resources housed with a County Office of Education or Local Health Jurisdiction for rapid distribution to schools.
  - **Monitor** the [CDC's COVID Community Data Tracker](#) as a method of identifying when to increase or reestablish school testing operations.
  - **Communicate** any questions, concerns, or additional operational testing resources/needs to the CA Testing Task Force at [schooltesting@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:schooltesting@cdph.ca.gov)
- b) The district will continue to stock, as supplied through State and County programs, COVID-19 over-the-counter (OTC) test kits for distribution to staff, parents, and students (who are of an age whereby they can self-administer the test) for all COVID-19 testing purposes.