



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 March 22, 2022



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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. Through 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 issued by the health departments. For the 21-22 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 entirely based upon the health and safety guidelines for K-12 schools issued by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) with additional guidance supplied by the Ventura County Department of Public Health (VCPH). 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 where 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 Standard 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 requirements for COVID-19 cases as set forth by the State and County agencies and to collaborate with the VCPH in performing 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 by staff instruction and signage posted around campus.
- d) The district will continue to demonstrate responsible information sharing by publishing on its website the number of positive COVID-19 cases that have occurred on each campus within the last 14 days.
- e) The district website will also contain a link to submit questions and comments about this plan and a page to address frequently asked questions.
- f) 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) The district has developed a strategy to address student's social, emotional, mental health and learning loss impacted by the pandemic. Information on these programs can be found at the following link <https://www.conejousd.org/CVUSD-Forward> .
- b) Information on the district's provisions for accommodating students who cannot attend school due to isolation, quarantine, or future school closures can be found at <https://www.conejousd.org/CVUSD-Forward> .
- c) Information on measures that are being taken to meet the needs of students with disabilities and English learners can be found at <https://www.conejousd.org/CVUSD-Forward> .

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](#) ,the wearing of a mask indoors is now strongly recommend, but not required.
- c) The wearing of a face mask 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.
- b) Physical distance will be maximize as much as practical during group dining (especially indoors).

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) Anyone exhibiting or reporting symptoms of COVID-19 will be excluded from entering the campus.
- 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 but to notify the school/supervisor and contact their health provider for evaluation and direction on self-care and testing.

5. Protocols for Handling Sick Persons or Close Contacts

- a) All persons exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 must 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. If a person 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 person tests positive they must 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.
- b) Asymptomatic vaccinated persons and persons who have recovered from COVID-19 within the last 90 days do not need to quarantine after close contact with a person testing positive for COVID-19. Employees within either of these categories need to test three to five days after exposure to a person testing positive for COVID-19. Students exposed to a positive case within a K-12 setting will be quarantined using the Group-Tracing Approach – see section c.
- c) Group-Tracing Approach to Students Exposed to COVID-19 in a K-12 setting: As recommended by the CDPH, Group-Tracing will be applied for student exposed to a person on campus or in a school event who tests positive for COVID-19. The protocols for this approach are as follows:

1. Schools will notify 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 (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, regardless of COVID-19 vaccination status, will be instructed to get 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 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 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 or test positive for 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 who develop symptoms should see Section 4 of the [K-12 Guidance](#).

b. Exposed students who receive a positive test result should isolate in accordance with Section 10 of the [K-12 Guidance](#).

d) Standard Quarantine: Students (exposed to COVID-19 case outside of the school setting) and staff who are not vaccinated or have not recovered from COVID-19 within the last 90 days and have a close contact with a person testing positive for COVID-19 must complete a standard quarantine: Quarantine can end after day 5 if no symptoms and a diagnostic specimen collected on day 5 or later tests negative. If unable to test or choosing not to test, and no symptoms, quarantine can end after day 10. It is strongly recommended that exposed persons 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 PCR testing for school staff, students, and the greater community.

7. Hand Hygiene

- a) School staff will teach and reinforce washing hands, avoiding touching one's eyes, nose, 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) High touch surfaces within classrooms, breakrooms, restrooms, and other common areas that present the most potential for disease transmission (such as restroom handles and door push plates) will be cleaned once a day. High touch surfaces on busses will be cleaned once a day.
- b) Disinfection will be conducted for spaces occupied by a person testing positive for COVID-19 within the last 24 hours.
- c) Disinfection will be done according to standard procedures and with EPA listed disinfectants.

9. Food Service

- a) Physical distance will be maximize as much as practical during group dining (especially indoors). High touch surfaces within the food prep and service areas will be cleaned frequently. Dining tables will be washed, rinsed, and sanitized before and after meals.

- b) Given very low risk of transmission from surfaces and shared objects, food service will not be limited to single use items and packaged meals. Share condiments and serving utensils maybe used depending upon the circumstances and level of risk.

10. Vaccination Verification

- a) For asymptomatic vaccinated persons who have been in close contact with a positive case, proof of vaccination (vaccination record, photo of this record, or online verification system) will be required to forego quarantine and to return to school/work.
- b) 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. Visitor and Volunteers

- a) Visitors must comply with all rules related to self-screening if they are to enter school buildings. Visitors must register their entry via the Raptor Visitor Management System to support both campus security and contact tracing if required. Parents who enter the school grounds to drop off their children should not enter the buildings and limit their time on campus to 15 minutes or less whenever possible.
- b) Volunteers are permitted on campus if they are making a valued contribution to an educational program. Volunteers are required to follow all prevention protocols. These volunteers must be formally registered with the school.
- c) Based on the current guidance from the CDPH; for all campus visitors, including volunteers, it is strongly recommended that they wear a face mask when indoors within a K-12 school setting.

12. 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 on every positive case involving a student or worker on campus. Based upon the VCPH’s professional investigation, an outbreak will be determined and all additional 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.

13. 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. Both the CDC and the CDPH have developed criteria for expanding control measures based upon the increasing transmission or severity of COVID-19 within a community. Those criteria are stated in publications that can be found at the following links:
 - CDPH- <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Local-Considerations-K-12-Universal-Masking-Requirements.aspx>
 - CDC- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/science/community-levels.html>

- 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.