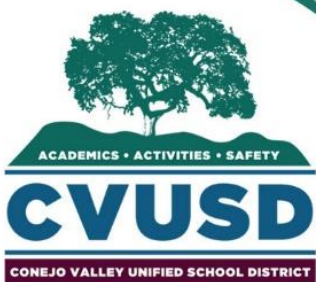




Conejo Valley Unified School District

COVID-19 SAFETY PLAN

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



Revised December 2021



CONEJO VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Revised December 10, 2021

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 expect to build upon this success by expanding in-person instruction 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) Pre K-Post Secondary students are required to mask indoors, with exemptions per [CDPH face mask guidance](#). Adults in Pre K-Post Secondary School settings are required to mask when sharing indoor spaces with students.
- c) The CDPH K-12 school guidance continues to require masks indoors for participants in school-based extracurricular activities, but allows for no masking for indoor sports and band instrument playing with weekly testing under certain circumstances. In such a case, the student must provide proof of a negative test from a test facility each week for regular occurring activities or prior to a single performance event. This testing requirement applies to both vaccinated and unvaccinated students.
- d) Masks must be worn by all persons on a school bus when children are present.
- e) For indoor non-instructional facilities/settings where students are not present, the district will follow precautionary VCPH or CDPH recommendations and/or guidance in regards to fully vaccinated persons and require all persons to wear a face covering regardless of vaccination status. Absent such a recommendation or guidance, fully vaccinated employees and visitors at indoor non-instructional facilities/settings will not be required to wear a face covering.
- f) Persons exempted from wearing a face covering due to a medical condition, must wear a non-restrictive alternative, such as a face shield with a drape on the bottom edge, as long as their condition permits it. A medical exemption will need to be verified with a note from the person's treating physician.
- g) Schools will provide a face covering to students who inadvertently fail to bring a face covering to school to prevent unnecessary exclusions.
- h) Students who fail to adhere to the CDPH mask mandate will be provided with independent study.
- i) In limited situations where a face covering cannot be used for pedagogical or developmental reasons, (e.g., communicating or assisting young children or those with special needs) a face shield with a drape (per [CDPH guidelines](#)) can be used by staff instead of a face covering while in the classroom as long as the wearer maintains a physical distance of 6 feet from others. Staff must return to wearing a face covering outside of the classroom.

- j) CVUSD seeks to align its policy with recommendations provided by CDC on the characteristics of an effective face covering [CDC Recs](#) . A suitable face mask must consist of a minimum of two layers of tightly woven, non-transparent fabric that completely covers the nose and mouth and fits close to the sides of the face and chin without gaps. Masks with exhalation valves or vents and bandanas that are open at the bottom are not permissible. Gaiters are acceptable if they consist of at least two layers of tightly woven fabric and snugly fit over the nose and mouth. Face shields without a drape are not acceptable. Persons who arrive at a district location without an appropriate face covering will be provided with a disposable face mask that meets these criteria. Persons who refuse to wear an appropriate face covering or fail, after repeated warnings, to wear a properly fitted face covering will be excluded from district facilities.

2. Physical Distancing

- a) In general, physical distancing is not required. Physical distancing may be 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 possible during group dining (especially indoors). As practical, additional spaces outside of the normal dining areas will be used for mealtime seating such as multipurpose rooms or the gymnasium to help facilitate distancing. Eating will be conducted outdoors as much as feasible.

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 [CDC Isolation](#) 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.
- b) Asymptomatic fully 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. All others need to follow CDPH quarantine guidance for schools.
- c) CDPH quarantine recommendations for **unvaccinated** students for exposures when both parties were wearing a mask, as required in K-12 indoor **on campus** settings:
 - a. When both parties were wearing a mask, unvaccinated students who are close contacts (more than 15 minutes over a 24-hour period within 0-6 feet indoors) may undergo a **modified 7 or** 10-day quarantine as follows. They may continue to attend school for in-person instruction if they:
 - i. Are asymptomatic;
 - ii. Continue to appropriately mask, as required;
 - iii. Undergo at least twice weekly testing during the quarantine; and
 - iv. Continue to quarantine for all extracurricular activities at school, including sports, and activities within the community setting.

v. An asymptomatic student may discontinue quarantine and return to school/work after day 7 if they test negative on day 5 or latter using a test administered by a testing center or medical provider.

b. Quarantine recommendations for: **unvaccinated close contacts** who were not wearing masks or for whom the infected individual was not wearing a mask during the exposure; for these contacts, those who remain asymptomatic, meaning they have NOT had any symptoms, may discontinue self-quarantine after 10 days from the date of last exposure under the following conditions:

i. Continue daily self-monitoring for symptoms through Day 14 from last known exposure; AND

ii. Follow all recommended non-pharmaceutical interventions (e.g., wearing a mask when around others, hand washing, avoiding crowds) through Day 14 from last known exposure.

iii. An asymptomatic person may discontinue quarantine and return to school/work after day 7 if they test negative on day 5 or latter using a test administered by a testing center or medical provider.

d. If any symptoms develop during this 14-day period, the exposed person must immediately isolate, get tested and contact their healthcare provider with any questions regarding their care.

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.

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.

7. Cleaning

- a) High touch surfaces within classrooms, breakrooms, restrooms, and other common areas 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.

8. Food Service

- a) Physical distance will be maximize as much as possible during group dining (especially indoors). As practical, additional spaces outside of the normal dining areas will be used for mealtime seating such as multipurpose rooms or the gymnasium to help facilitate distancing. Eating will be conducted outdoors as much as feasible.
- b) 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.
- c) 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.

9. Vaccination Verification

- a) CAL OSHA regulations require that we maintain a record of the vaccination status of district employees. Accordingly, employees are instructed, by way of an online portal, to self-attest that they are fully vaccinated. The district reserves the right to obtain proof of vaccination. Employees who do not self-attest will be assumed to be unvaccinated.

- b) For asymptomatic fully 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.
- c) 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.

10. Visitor and Volunteers

- a) Visitors will only be allowed on campus to conduct essential school related business. Visitors must comply with all rules related to self-screening and mask wearing 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 essential educational program. Volunteers are required to follow all prevention protocols. These volunteers must be formally registered with the school.
- c) Assemblies with parents and other guest will be conducted outside whenever possible. If conducted indoors all attendees must wear an appropriate face covering regardless of vaccination status.

11. Outbreak Definition

- 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) A definition of an “outbreak” as referenced by the CDPH and specific to K-12 operations was adopted for this program pending a revised definition issued by either the CDPH or the VCPH. This definition states: Multiple cases comprising at least 10% of students, teachers, or staff, within a specified core group* OR at least three (3) cases within a specified core group* meeting criteria for a probable or confirmed school-associated COVID-19 case with symptom onset or positive test result within 14 days of each other; who were not identified as close contacts of each other in another setting (i.e. household) outside of the school setting; AND epidemiologically linked in the school setting or a school-sanctioned extracurricular activity. [CSTE K-12 Classification Outbreaks](#)
- c) * A “core group” includes but is not limited to extracurricular activity, cohort group, classroom, before/after school care, etc.)