

Marin County School Guidelines

Public Health Guided Site-Based Classroom Instruction

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The purpose of this document is to provide guidelines to Marin County educational institutions — including public, private, independent and parochial TK-12 schools—to facilitate fulltime site-based classroom instruction for the 2021-22 school year. The evolving nature of the COVID-19 pandemic requires the need to rethink common protocols and practices in the classroom setting with the understanding that these guidelines could change as the situation evolves. Some guidelines are **not currently applicable** and may phase in or out as determined by Public Health.

1. All activities are consistent with and will adjust to changing applicable state and local Public Health orders.
2. Health and safety practices and protocols are in place, including hand washing, appropriate face coverings, access to essential protective equipment, and up to date attendance tracking of students and all adults.
3. Training is provided to all staff, students and families reinforcing the importance of health and safety practices and protocols.
4. A primary and secondary point of contact are established, identified and trained at each school site to direct questions or concerns around practices, protocols, or potential exposure. These points of contact will serve as liaisons to Public Health, and contact information is identified in the School Site-Specific Protection Plan (COVID-19 Safety Plan).
5. Plans are implemented for intensified cleaning and disinfecting, including training for all staff and access to cleaning supplies and essential protective equipment, and regular disinfecting of frequently touched surfaces.
6. Parents, caregivers, or guardians should monitor students for symptoms of infectious illness every day through home-based symptom screening, and staff should conduct daily health screening self-assessment.
7. Staff and students who are sick are expected to stay home, and an isolation area is identified for students who begin to exhibit symptoms during the school day, until

they can be picked up.

8. Schools and districts will cooperate with Public Health to support testing strategies to mitigate transmission of COVID-19 and provide options for symptomatic testing for students and staff, exposure response testing, and testing for modified quarantine. Testing of students must include appropriate parental permissions obtained in advance. If a fully vaccinated student or staff member develops COVID-like symptoms or has close contact with someone confirmed with COVID-19, testing is recommended.
9. Protocols, actions and template communications are in place for the following COVID-19 related scenarios (link: [Marin County Public Health Protocols & Communication Templates for Each Scenario By Tier](#))
 - a. A student or staff member either exhibits COVID-19 symptoms or has a temperature of 100.4 or above.
 - b. A family member or someone in close contact with a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19.
 - c. A student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19. Non-vaccinated close contacts need to quarantine. Fully vaccinated close contacts do not need to quarantine.
 - d. A student or staff member tests negative for COVID-19 after symptoms or confirmed close contact.
10. **Not currently applicable:** Physical distancing of six feet is maintained between adults and between adults and students, where practicable; three feet distance is permissible between students within a classroom or instructional area where requirements herein are in practice. Seating charts and attendance records will be maintained.
11. **Not currently applicable:** For elementary schools, stable classroom groups (up to standard class size at each respective grade level) are maintained throughout each school day. Limited mixing of students is permissible as long as accurate attendance data is maintained on a daily basis.
12. **Not currently applicable:** For middle and high schools, larger stable groups made up of students from more than one classroom may be arranged as long as accurate attendance data for students and adults is maintained on a daily basis while avoiding school wide mixing of students and staff.
13. **Not currently applicable:** Where practicable, desks are arranged facing forward to minimize face to face proximity between students.
14. **Not currently applicable:** School staff are permitted to visit and instruct more than one classroom group, following physical distancing and face covering protocols, and must document/record visits to classrooms that are not identified as their primary classroom.

15. **Not currently applicable:** Routes for entry and exit to the campus will be designated for each classroom group, using as many entrances/exits as feasible.
16. **Not currently applicable:** Schedules for arrivals, recess and lunch will be strategically coordinated to prevent mixing of classroom groups.
17. **Not currently applicable:** Congregate movement through hallways will be minimized as much as practicable.
18. **Not currently applicable:** Large gatherings (i.e., school assemblies) are currently prohibited.
19. **Not currently applicable:** The use of outdoor space for instructional purposes is maximized, shared, and coordinated to ensure students remain in their classroom groups. **Applicable:** Schools should assess indoor air quality and implement strategies that increase the amount of outdoor air brought into buildings, optimize current HVAC systems and supplement with portable air cleaners when practicable. Keep windows and other sources of natural ventilation open to the greatest extent possible. In the event of poor air quality updated [School Air Quality Recommendations](#) should be followed.
20. **Not currently applicable:** Use of shared playground equipment will be limited in favor of physical activities that require less contact with surfaces. If used, outdoor playgrounds/natural play areas only need routine maintenance.
21. **Not currently applicable:** Use of non-classroom space for instruction such as gymnasiums and multi-use rooms should be considered to support physical distancing with cleaning between uses.
22. **Applicable:** Meals will be served outside as much as possible. **Not currently applicable:** Classrooms or other spaces in addition to cafeterias or dining rooms will be utilized to maximize physical distancing while eating, with individually plated or bagged meals as much as practicable
23. **Not applicable:** Routines and schedules will be developed to enable students and staff to regularly wash their hands at staggered intervals.
24. All staff as well as all students are required to wear face coverings indoors, and recommended to wear face coverings outdoors based on the direction of public health, unless there is a medical or behavioral contraindication or exemption. Students from grades TK - 2 should be supported and taught how to wear them properly, and specific outdoor and appropriately distanced activities may be scheduled for students at all grade levels to remove face coverings for brief periods of time.
25. Training will be provided for staff and students on proper use of face coverings which

will include instruction to minimize touching of face coverings, and how to ensure a proper fit.

26. **Not currently applicable:** Sharing of supplies, manipulatives, toys, sports equipment, and other learning and recreational materials will be limited and each student will have separate individually labeled boxes or cubbies.
27. **Not currently applicable:** Sharing of electronic devices, clothing, books and other games or learning aids will be avoided as much as practicable.
28. **Not currently applicable:** Use of physical barriers (eg. privacy boards or clear screens) may be considered but should not replace other measures herein.
29. Non-essential visitors, including parent volunteers will be limited. Essential workers will be required to adhere to all health and safety guidelines. Any substitutes, contractors, visitors or volunteers working directly with students should be fully vaccinated.
30. All eligible students and staff should get vaccinated as soon as possible and are required to verify their vaccination status. Staff that are not fully vaccinated are required to be tested weekly. Staff and student vaccination rate data (the percentage of staff and students who are fully vaccinated) should be published and posted on the school website no later than October 1, 2021, and will be updated no less than on a monthly basis. Vaccination status of individual students and staff will not be made public. (Note: State Public Health Order for vaccination requirement is anticipated).
31. Other School related youth activities (ie. student transportation, sports, music, drama, after school care, etc.) will follow updated CDPH guidance (pending).
32. A [School Site-Specific Protection Plan](#) (SSSPP) / COVID Safety Plan (CSP) outlining the above measures is completed, posted and updated on school or district websites and shared with all staff and families. Schools should update SSSPPs / CSPs as state and local Public Health guidance changes.

Resource Documents:

- [July 12, 2021 CDPH COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools in California, 2021-22 School Year](#)
- [July 12, 2021 CDPH K-12 school-based COVID-19 testing strategies for school year 2021-22](#)
- [July 9, 2021 CDC Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools](#)
- [July 20, 2021 What Parents Should Know About the Updated COVID-19 School Guidance](#)
- [June 22, 2021 Safely reopening California](#)
- [July 27, 2021 CDC Interim Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People](#)
- [July 29, 2021 California Department of Public Health Vaccine Record Guidelines & Standards](#)
- [CDC K-12 Guidance on Disabilities or Other Health Care needs](#)
- [State of California Safe Schools For All Hub](#)
- [July 28, 2021 CDPH - Guidance of the the Use of Face Coverings](#)

- [June 15, 2021 CDC Cleaning and Disinfecting your Facility](#)
- [CDPH Indoor Air Quality](#)
- [June 30, 2021 CDPH Travel Guidance](#)
- [May 25, 2021 Marin County School Air Quality Activity Recommendations](#)
- [June 21, 2021 Cal/OSHA Prevention Emergency Temporary Standards - What Employers Need to Know About the June 18 Standards](#)
- [June 11, 2021 CDPH State Public Health Orders](#)
- [June 11, 2021 CDC How to Wear Masks](#)
- [CDC Symptoms of COVID-19](#)
- [California K-12 School Antigen Testing Program Playbook](#)
- [Marin County Schools Mitigation Strategies Continuum 2021-22 School Year](#)
- [Public Health References for Rethinking Schools Bibliography](#)