



# Student COVID-19 Prevention Program

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Mendocino County Office of Education

# COVID-19 Safety Plan

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This COVID-19 Safety Plan is designed to control students exposures to the SARS-coV-2 Virus (severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2) that causes COVID-19 (Coronavirus Disease 2019) that may occur in the workplace.

## Definitions

1. “Close Contact” means sharing the same indoor space as a COVID-19 case for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24 hour period during the COVID-19 case’s infectious period, as defined by this section, regardless of the use of face coverings, unless close contact is defined by regulation or order of the California Department of Public Health (CDPH). If so, the CDPH definition shall apply.
2. “COVID-19” (Coronavirus Disease 2019) means the disease caused by SARS-CoV-2 (severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2).
3. “COVID-19 case” means a person who:
  - a. Has a positive “COVID-19 test” as defined in this section; or
  - b. Has a positive COVID-19 diagnosis from a licensed healthcare provider
  - c. Is subject to a COVID-19 related order to isolate issued by a local or state health official; or
  - d. Has died due to COVID-19, in the determination of a local health department or per inclusion in the COVID-19 statistics of a county.
4. “COVID-19 Hazard” means potentially infectious material that may contain SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. Potentially infectious materials include airborne droplets, small particle aerosols, and airborne droplet nuclei, which most commonly result from a person or persons exhaling, talking or vocalizing, coughing, or sneezing, or from procedures performed on persons which may aerosolize saliva or respiratory tract fluids. This also includes objects or surfaces that may be contaminated with SARS-CoV-2.
5. “COVID-19 Symptom” means fever of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher, chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, or diarrhea, unless a licensed health care professional determines the person’s symptoms were caused by a known condition other than COVID-19.
6. “COVID-19 Test” means a test for SARS-CoV-2 that is:
  - a. Cleared, approved, or authorized, including in an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA), by the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to detect current infection with the SARS-CoV-2 virus;
  - b. Administered in accordance with authorized instructions; and
  - c. To meet return to work criteria, a COVID-19 test may be both self-administered and self-read only if another means of independent verification of the results can be provided (e.g., a date/time stamped photograph of the results).

7. “Face covering” means a surgical mask, a medical procedure mask, a respirator worn voluntarily, or a tightly woven fabric or non-woven material of at least two layers that completely covers the nose and mouth and is secured to the head with ties, ear loops, or elastic bands that go behind the head. If gaiters are worn, they shall have two layers of fabric or be folded to make two layers. A face covering is a solid piece of material without slits, visible holes, or punctures, and must fit snugly over the nose, mouth, and chin with no large gaps on the outside of the face. A face covering does not include a scarf, ski mask, balaclava, bandana, turtleneck, collar, or single layer of fabric. This definition includes clear face coverings or cloth face coverings with a clear plastic panel that otherwise meet this definition and which may be used to facilitate communication with people who are deaf or hard-of-hearing or others who need to see a speaker’s mouth or facial expressions to understand speech or sign language respectively.
8. “Infectious period” means the following time period, unless otherwise defined by CDPH regulation or order, in which case the CDPH definition shall apply:
  - a. For COVID-19 cases who develop COVID-19 symptoms, from two days before the date of symptom onset until:
    - i. Ten days have passed after symptoms first appeared, or through day five if testing negative on day five or later; and
    - ii. Twenty-four hours have passed with no fever, without the use of fever-reducing medications, and symptoms have improved.
  - b. For COVID-19 cases who never develop COVID-19 symptoms, from two days before the positive specimen collection date through 10 days (or through day five if testing negative on day five or later) after the date on which the specimen for their first positive test for COVID-19 was collected.
9. “Respirator” means a respiratory protection device approved by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) to protect the wearer from particulate matter, such as an N95 filtering facepiece respirator.

## Authority and Responsibility

MCOE Superintendent/Designee has overall authority and responsibility for implementing the provisions of this CPP in our workplace.

### Site COVID-19 Liaisons:

MCOE Principals Tawny Fernandez (Mendocino County Community School [MCCS] and West Hills) and Isaac Ramey (Therapeutic Support Program [TSP]/Orr Creek), are the designated MCOE School COVID-19 Liaisons and will also coordinate COVID-19 related issues on school campus. As the liaisons, they are responsible for maintaining regular communication in the event of any exposure at the school involving a COVID-19 positive individual and for responding to COVID-19 issues and concerns of students, parents, teachers and staff. MCOE School COVID-19 Liaisons will make sure to report when there is an outbreak (3 or more epidemiologically linked cases) to Mendocino County Public Health. They may assign responsibilities for follow up measures to address concerns or hazards to appropriate staff/individuals when necessary.

- Tawny Fernandez (707) 901-9058 or [tfernandez@mcoe.us](mailto:tfernandez@mcoe.us)
- Isaac Ramey 467-5172 or [iramey@mcoe.us](mailto:iramey@mcoe.us)

### Parent Responsibility:

Parents are asked to notify the school site office if their student tests positive for COVID-19.

### Staff Responsibility:

Staff members who become aware of a student who has tested positive for COVID-19 are to contact their school site office immediately.

## Identification and Evaluation of COVID-19 Hazards

MCOE implements the following:

- Review applicable orders and general and industry-specific guidance from Federal, State and the local health department related to COVID-19 hazards and prevention.
- Evaluate existing COVID-19 prevention controls in our schools and the need for different or additional controls, including maximizing the effectiveness of ventilation and air filtration.
- Conduct periodic inspections as needed to identify unhealthy conditions related to COVID-19 and to ensure compliance with our COVID-19 policies and procedures.

## Correction of COVID-19 Hazards

Unsafe or unhealthy conditions, practices or procedures will be documented by completing the [Identification of COVID-19 Hazards Google Form](#). Reported Hazards will be evaluated and corrected in a timely manner based on the severity of the hazard(s). The appropriate staff or individual will be assigned to review the hazard and to ensure timely and adequate correction has occurred.

## Control of COVID-19 Hazards

### Face Coverings

Unless otherwise directed by the local health department, students should follow CDPH masking guidance for the general public, as well as masking guidance for specific situations such as when having symptoms, being infected, or exposed. MCOE will communicate changes in local or CDPH guidance/requirements on masks.

MCOE will provide schools with a supply of face coverings for students who forget to bring a face covering to school and would like to wear one.

MCOE will not prevent any student from wearing a face covering when it is not required.

### HVAC/Filtration Plan

The risk of getting COVID-19 is greater in indoor settings with poor air quality. Effective ventilation and filtration can curb the spread of COVID-19 and other infectious diseases. It may also protect students and staff from exposure to wildfire smoke and other airborne allergens and pollutants.

Ventilation systems are continually monitored for proper operation. All Heating, Ventilation & Air Conditioning (HVAC) filters are replaced on a scheduled replacement cycle.

The following are the additional planned improvements for the 22/23 school year to the air filtration system to minimize the risk of transmission and infection of COVID-19 through the air.

- Install MERV 13 filters in all occupied buildings at school sites.

All inspections, repairs and services will be completed in coordination and in combination with outside engineers, contractors and vendors and utilizing MCOE personnel.

HEPA air filtration units are available as needed for all active classrooms.

## **Hand sanitizing**

In order to implement effective hand sanitizing procedures, we:

- Have installed and maintained mounted hand sanitizer dispensers in all high traffic areas.
- Individual Hand Sanitizer bottles have also been provided for personal use to all staff and are available by request.
- Soap and running water are available in all bathrooms and kitchens.

## **MCOE Testing**

Testing remains a key mitigation layer to detect and curb transmission of COVID-19. Schools are encouraged to ensure access to COVID-19 OTC tests for students. Antigen tests are the primary option for detecting COVID-19.

Schools may allow visitors, volunteers, and activities involving external groups or organizations if they are fully vaccinated or agree to weekly Antigen testing. At home over-the-counter tests are accepted with submission of a date/time stamped photo of a negative test with the person's name and date written on the test.

Due to increased travel and social interactions that often occur during school breaks, it is recommended that students get tested for COVID-19 prior to returning to school following major breaks.

## **Mendocino County Public Health Testing**

Mendocino County Public Health continues to offer free COVID testing for the community. Details and information for locations and times can be found by visiting their website: <https://www.mendocinocounty.org/community/novel-coronavirus>.

# **Checking for Signs, Symptoms, and Exposures**

## **Staying Home When Appropriate**

Staying home when sick can lower the risk of spreading infectious diseases, including COVID 19, to other people.

In most situations 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.

Additionally, if symptoms are concerning for COVID-19, it is strongly recommended that students wear a mask and get tested immediately. Students should also follow CDPH recommendations for retesting and/or isolating if results are positive.

**Table 1: Persons Who Should Isolate**

Persons Who Test Positive for COVID-19	Recommended Actions
<p>Everyone, regardless of vaccination status, previous infection or lack of symptoms.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Stay home</b> (PDF) for at least 5 days after start of symptoms (or after date of first positive test if no symptoms).</li> <li>● Isolation can end after Day 5 if symptoms are not present or are resolving and a diagnostic specimen* collected on Day 5 or later tests negative.</li> <li>● If unable to test, choosing not to test, or testing positive on Day 5 (or later), isolation can end after Day 10 if fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications.</li> <li>● If fever is present, isolation should be continued until 24 hours after fever resolves.</li> <li>● If symptoms, other than fever, are not resolving, continue to isolate until symptoms are resolving or until after Day 10. If symptoms are severe, or if the infected person is at high risk of serious disease, or if they have questions concerning care, infected persons should contact their healthcare provider for available treatments.</li> <li>● Per CDPH masking guidance, infected persons should wear a well-fitting mask around others for a total of 10 days, especially in indoor settings (see masking section below for additional information).</li> </ul> <p>*Antigen test preferred.</p>

**Table 2: Close Contacts - (No Quarantine)**

Asymptomatic Persons Who are Exposed to Someone with COVID-19 (No Quarantine)	Recommended Actions
<p>Everyone, regardless of vaccination status.</p> <p>Persons infected within the prior 90 days do not need to be tested, quarantined, or excluded from work unless symptoms develop.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Test within 3-5 days after last exposure.</li> <li>● Per CDPH masking guidance, close contacts should wear a well-fitting mask around others for a total of 10 days, especially in indoor settings and when near those at higher risk for severe COVID-19 disease (see masking section below for additional information).</li> <li>● Strongly encouraged to get vaccinated or boosted.</li> <li>● If symptoms develop, test and stay home (see earlier section on symptomatic persons), AND</li> <li>● If test result is positive, follow isolation recommendations above (Table 1).</li> </ul>



## Managing Students Exposed to COVID-19

Families will notify schools if their child has COVID-19 and was on school grounds during their infectious period.

Schools will provide a general notification to the entire class if it is determined that they may have been exposed to an individual with COVID-19.

All students with known exposure to persons with COVID-19 should follow CDPH recommendations. If they remain without symptoms, students may continue to take part in all aspects of K-12 schooling including extracurricular activities. As recommended by CDPH, they should wear a well-fitting mask around others for a total of 10 days and get tested 3-5 days after last exposure.

## Confirmed COVID-19 Case

Parents are asked to notify the school site office if their student tests positive for COVID-19. Staff members who become aware of a student who has tested positive for COVID-19 are to contact their school site office immediately. COVID positive students should isolate as outlined by CDPH in the table above and may return to school once they meet the recommended criteria.

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Michelle Hutchins, MCOE Superintendent/Designee

Date