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## Reopening Protocols for K-12 Schools

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These Protocols are based on the expectation that conditions will permit widespread return to in-person K-12 education in Los Angeles County for the 20-21 school year. Districts should supplement planning for implementation of these directives with contingency planning for remote learning, however, in case worsening incidence of COVID-19 or emerging science concerning spread indicates a need for greater caution.

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### Recent updates

7/24/20: Updated to clarify policy regarding face coverings for employees, students and visitors as well as symptom checks for employees. Also updated to incorporate changes regarding the appropriate isolation period for symptomatic and asymptomatic COVID-19 positive individuals (changes highlighted in yellow)

The County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health is adopting a staged approach, supported by science and public health expertise, to enable schools serving students from kindergarten through grade 12 to reopen safely. In addition to the conditions imposed on schools by the State Public Health Officer and the California Department of Education, schools must also be in compliance with these employee and student safety and infection control protocols.

Please note: This document may be updated as new information and resources become available. Go to <http://www.ph.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/> for updates to this document.

This checklist covers:

- (1) Workplace policies and practices to protect employee and student health
- (2) Measures to ensure physical distancing
- (3) Measures to ensure infection control
- (4) Communication with employees, students and families of students and the public
- (5) Measures to ensure equitable access to critical services.

These five key areas must be addressed as your facility develops any reopening protocols.

Schools must implement all applicable measures listed below and be prepared to explain why any measure that is not implemented is not applicable to the setting.

**Institution name:**

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**Address:**

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**Maximum Occupancy, per Fire Code:**

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**Approximate total square footage of space open to faculty and/or students:**

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**NOTE:** The terms “employees” and “staff” are used in these protocols to refer to individuals who work in a school facility in any capacity associated with teaching, coaching, student support, provision of therapies or personal assistance to individual students, facility cleaning or maintenance, administration, or any other activity required for the school to function. “Employees” or “staff” may include individuals who are: paid directly by the relevant school system, paid by entities acting as contractors to the school, paid by outside entities acting in collaboration with the school to serve students, paid by third parties to provide individual student services, or unpaid volunteers acting under school direction to carry out essential functions. The term “parents” is used in these protocols to refer to any persons serving as caregivers or guardians to students.

#### A. WORKPLACE POLICIES AND PRACTICES TO PROTECT STAFF (“EMPLOYEES”) AND STUDENTS (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- The school has a **COVID-19 Containment, Response and Control Plan** that describes the school’s comprehensive approach to preventing and containing the spread of COVID-19 on campus. The Plan includes, but is not limited to the following elements:
  - A designated COVID-19 Compliance Team that is responsible for establishing and enforcing all COVID-19 safety protocols and ensuring that staff and students receive education about COVID-19. One member of this team is designated as a liaison to DPH in the event of an outbreak on campus.
  - A plan or protocol, for steps that will be taken immediately upon notification of school officials that any member of the school community (faculty, staff, student or visitor) tests positive for, or has symptoms consistent with COVID-19. The plan addresses:
    - Immediate separation of the case from the school community to self-isolation at home if notification occurs while the case is on-site. The plan must allow for temporary, on-site isolation of the case if arrangements are needed for the person’s return to their home.
    - Fact-sheets or other informational materials that are to be given to the case (or appropriate family member/s if the case is a child) covering regulations governing self-isolation and links to sites with further information.
    - A plan or protocol to initiate a School Exposure Management Plan consistent with DPH guidance that outlines procedures for:
      - Isolation of case(s);
      - Identification of persons exposed to cases at school;
      - Immediate quarantine of exposed employees and/or students; and
      - Assurance of access to testing for all exposed individuals within the school as the basis for further control measures.
    - A plan to report a cluster of cases (3 or more cases within 14 days) to the Department of Public Health via email at [ACDC-Education@ph.lacounty.gov](mailto:ACDC-Education@ph.lacounty.gov) or by calling (888) 397-3993 or (213) 240-7821.
    - Contingency plans for full or partial closure of in-person school operations if that should become necessary based on an outbreak in the school or community.
- Vulnerable employees (those above age 65, and those with chronic health conditions that would place them at high risk if infected) are assigned work that can be done from home whenever possible. Employees in this category should discuss any concerns with their healthcare provider or occupational health services to make appropriate decisions on returning to the workplace.
- Work processes are reconfigured to the extent consistent with academic requirements and student needs to increase opportunities for employees to work from home.
- In compliance with wage and hour regulations and school mandates, alternate, staggered or shift schedules have been instituted to maximize physical distancing where possible.

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH  
ORDER OF THE HEALTH OFFICER



- All employees have been told not to come to work if sick or if they have been exposed to a person who has COVID-19. School officials have provided information to employees regarding [employer or government sponsored leave benefits](#), including their right to paid sick leave as guaranteed by the [Families First Coronavirus Response Act](#).
- Use of school facilities for non-school purposes (community meeting or events, on-site clinic visits by people who are neither students nor staff, etc.) is not permitted.
- Employee screenings** are conducted before employees may enter the workspace. Checks must include a check-in concerning cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing and fever or chills and if the employee has had contact with a person known to be infected COVID-19 in the last 14 days. These checks can be done remotely or in person upon the employees' arrival. A temperature check should also be done at the worksite if feasible.
- Anyone entering school property (school buses as well as school buildings and grounds) who has contact with others (students, parents or other employees) is required to wear a cloth face covering.
  - Employees who have contact with others are offered, at no cost, an appropriate face covering that covers the nose and mouth. The covering is to be worn by the employee at all times during the workday when in contact or likely to come into contact with others. Employees who have been instructed by their medical provider that they should not wear a face covering should wear a face shield with a drape on the bottom edge, to be in compliance with State directives, as long as their condition permits it. A drape that is form fitting under the chin is preferred. Masks with one-way valves should not be used. Employees need not wear a face covering when the employee is alone in a private office or a cubicle with a solid partition that exceeds the height of the employee when standing.
  - A medical grade mask is provided to any employee who cares for sick children or who has close contact with any child with a medical condition that precludes the child's use of a cloth face covering.
  - Alternative protective strategies may be adopted to accommodate students who are on Individualized Education or 504 Plans and who cannot use or tolerate cloth face coverings.
- Employees are instructed to wash **or replace** their face coverings daily. Parents are instructed to ensure that children have clean face coverings.
- All individual employee workstations or areas used by employees working as part of a team allow for separation of at least 6 feet. Classroom furniture is arranged to permit a distance of at least 6 feet between the teacher's desk and the nearest student(s).
- In compliance with wage and hour regulations, breaks are staggered to ensure that physical distancing can be maintained in break rooms.
- All employees, on-site contractors, vendors and delivery personnel have been provided instructions regarding maintaining physical distancing and the required use face coverings when around others.
- Break rooms, restrooms, classrooms, and other common areas used or visited by staff are disinfected frequently, on the following schedule:
  - Break rooms \_\_\_\_\_
  - Restrooms \_\_\_\_\_
  - Classrooms \_\_\_\_\_
  - Laboratories \_\_\_\_\_
  - Nurse's office \_\_\_\_\_
  - Counseling and other student support areas \_\_\_\_\_
  - Front office \_\_\_\_\_
  - Other offices \_\_\_\_\_

- Other (auditorium, gymnasium, library if in use) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- High touch areas in staff breakrooms are frequently disinfected, and commonly shared items, such as coffee pots, pots, and dishes, are replaced with single use items or thoroughly cleaned after each use by a different person.
- Disinfectant and related supplies are available to employees at the following location(s):  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Hand sanitizer effective against COVID-19 is available to all employees in or near the following locations (check all that apply)
  - Building entrance/s, exit/s
  - Central office
  - Stairway entrances
  - Elevator entry (if applicable)
  - Classrooms
  - Faculty breakroom
  - Faculty offices:
- Soap and water are available to all employees at the following location(s):  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Employees are offered frequent opportunities to wash their hands.
- Each employee is assigned their own tools, supplies, equipment and defined workspace to the extent feasible. Sharing of workspaces and held items is minimized or eliminated.
- Copies of this Protocol have been distributed to all employees.
- Optional—Describe other measures:  
\_\_\_\_\_

**B. MEASURES TO ENSURE PHYSICAL DISTANCING BY STAFF, STUDENTS AND VISITORS (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)**

- Maximum number of employees permitted in facility to maximize physical distancing is: \_\_\_\_\_
- Maximum number of students permitted in facility to maximize physical distancing is: \_\_\_\_\_

- Measures are in place to ensure physical distancing of students on school busses. These include (check all that apply):
- A maximum of one child is permitted per bus seat.
  - Use of alternating rows.
  - Staggered school start times to permit more than one trip per bus at school start and close.
  - Implementation of measures that make it easier for parents to drive students to school, such as availability of early opening with staff presence, expanded short-term parking at schools, and presence of staff at drop-off areas to assure safe movement of students from drop-off to school entry.
  - Implementation of measures that facilitate safe and age-appropriate student travel to school including Safe Routes to School walking groups, use of school crossing guards, bicycle safety and bike route programming.
    - Parents have been engaged in working with school personnel to assure that alternative transportation options are appropriately supervised and have incorporated strategies for physical distancing and use of cloth face coverings.
  - Building infrastructure is adapted to maximize support for bicycle commuting and capacity for bike storage is increased if possible.
  - Other
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- Measures are in place to ensure physical distancing as students, parents or visitors arrive at entry to school. These include (check all that apply):
- Students exit busses or other vehicles single file through one door.
  - School employees are deployed to meet incoming busses, cars and students arriving on foot or by bicycle to assure distancing is maintained and avert gatherings.
  - Tape or other markings are used to help students maintain physical distancing as they line up to enter the school.
  - Multiple entrances and exits are used to avoid overcrowding at arrival and dismissals as long as all entrances and exits have adequate monitoring of arriving and exiting students and employees.
  - Other
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- Measures are in place to ensure physical distancing as students, parents or visitors enter and move through the school building. These may include (check all that apply):
- School employees are deployed in hallways to assure physical distancing as students enter, go through symptom checks and proceed to classrooms.
  - School employees are deployed in hallways throughout the day as needed to assure physical distancing as students move between classrooms or from classrooms to other school locations.
  - Elevator capacity, if applicable, is limited to the number of people that can be accommodated while maintaining a 6 foot distance between riders; during peak building entry and exit times, this number can be adjusted to a maximum number of 4 riders at a time for any elevator that does not allow for 6-foot physical distance between riders. All riders are required to wear cloth face coverings.
  - The following Measures are in place to avoid crowding on stairways:

- Designation of up and down stairways \_\_\_\_\_
  - Staggering of breaks between classes \_\_\_\_\_
  - Monitoring of stairways by school staff \_\_\_\_\_
  - Other \_\_\_\_\_
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- Measures are in place to ensure physical distancing within classrooms. These include (check all that apply):
- In-person class size has been limited to \_\_\_\_ students in elementary grades.
  - In-person class size has been limited to \_\_\_\_ students in middle and high school grades
  - The school day has been divided into shifts to permit fewer students per class.
  - Attendance is staggered to reduce the overall number of students in classrooms on a given day.
  - Some classes have been moved entirely online.
  - Online class attendance is offered as an option for students for whom it is feasible and for students who may be at elevated risk in a regular classroom.
    - In some classes \_\_\_\_\_
    - In all classes \_\_\_\_\_
  - Alternative spaces are used to reduce the number of students within classrooms. These may include:
    - School library \_\_\_\_\_
    - Auditorium \_\_\_\_\_
    - Cafeteria \_\_\_\_\_
    - Gymnasium \_\_\_\_\_
    - Other \_\_\_\_\_
  - Classroom furniture is set up to ensure 6 feet between students at their desks/tables and between students and teachers (placement of desks/tables, use of floor markings to indicate required distance, etc.) to the extent feasible. Where 6 feet of distance is not possible, physical barriers are used to minimize close contacts.
  - Furniture designed for in-class group activities that bring students closer than 6 feet has been reconfigured or removed from the classroom
  - Nap or rest areas in classrooms have students placed 6 feet apart and alternating feet to head.
  - Teaching methods have been modified to avoid close contact between students in laboratories and other classes that may usually involve group activities.
  - Other \_\_\_\_\_
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- Gym class activities are selected to permit physical distancing.
- School policies enforce physical distancing (students maintain distance of 6 feet) in locker rooms. Policies may include:
  - Offering access to locker rooms only when staff supervision is possible
  - Staggering locker room access
  - Creating an alternative option for storage of student clothing, books and other items.
- Measures are in place to maintain physical distancing during school meals. These may include (check all that apply):
  - To the extent possible, meals are eaten in classrooms or outdoors, without any mingling of elementary school students from different classrooms.
  - If students line up to pick up food, tape or other markings are used to assure a 6-foot distance between any two students.
  - Staff are deployed during meals to maintain physical distancing and keep elementary school students from different classrooms from mingling.
  - If meals take place in a cafeteria, meal times are staggered to the extent feasible to reduce the number of students in the cafeteria at one time; staff are on hand to ensure that elementary school students from different classrooms are not mingling.
  - If meals take place in a cafeteria, space between tables/chairs has been increased to support 6 feet of physical distancing. Barriers between tables and/or chairs may be used as an alternative when 6 feet of distancing is not possible.
- Food preparation and service operations have been redesigned, where possible, to achieve physical distancing between employees. For example, kitchen and other back of house floors are marked to reinforce physical distancing requirements.
- Measures are in place to permit physical distancing in school areas used for student support services
  - Student support staff, including school employees (nurses, guidance counselors, therapists, etc.) and employees of adjunct support programs (clinicians, health educators, etc.) have been instructed to maintain a physical distance of at least 6 feet to the extent feasible while engaging in student support activities.
  - Furniture and equipment in school areas used for student support services are arranged to promote a 6-foot distance between any two students and/or between students and staff.
  - Where feasible and appropriate, therapeutic and support activities are conducted virtually.
  - Sharing of equipment and supplies is avoided where possible. Should equipment need to be shared, it must be sanitized before and after each use by a different student and/or employee
  - Staff offering student support services are provided with appropriate PPE per Cal OSHA requirements.
- Measures are in place to permit physical distancing in administrative areas of the school
  - Signage alerts visitors to the need to maintain a 6-foot distance from school office personnel.
  - Tape or other markings are used to define a 6-foot radius around reception desks or counters.
  - Work stations of administrative personnel have been arranged to permit 6 feet between individuals sharing a space or between office personnel and students or other staff required to visit the space.
- Measures are in place to ensure physical distancing and safe infection control practices in extracurricular activities. These may include (check all that apply):

- Spectator events are not permitted at this time; this includes both indoor and outdoor events.
- Extracurricular athletic teams that the school has chosen to reopen (limited to sports permitted by state orders and which allow physical distancing, such as tennis, golf, gymnastics activities that do not require a spotter, etc.) have been reconfigured as necessary to incorporate physical distancing into training and play.
- Extracurricular team sports that do not allow physical distancing (baseball, football, soccer, etc. have not reopened. Note that coaches may provide conditioning and skill building programs to students for their individual use.
- Measures are in place to avert unsupervised clustering of students in locker rooms. These may include:
  - Offering access to locker rooms only when staff supervision is possible
  - Staggering locker room access
- Extracurricular musical activities have been moved online or reconfigured as necessary to incorporate physical distancing.
  - Choral groups or any activities that require singing or chanting are suspended.
  - Instrumental groups are configured to permit a distance of at least 6 feet between musicians.
- Extracurricular activities that are not athletic or musical (teams, clubs) meet online rather than in person to the extent feasible.
- In person school-wide events (assemblies, school plays, etc.) and group field trips have been halted.

### C. MEASURES TO ENSURE INFECTION CONTROL (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY TO THE FACILITY)

- Screening is conducted before students, visitors and staff may enter the school. Screening must include a check-in concerning cough, shortness of breath or experience of fever and any other symptoms the visitor may be experiencing. These checks can be done remotely (using a digital app or other verifiable approach) or in person upon arrival. A temperature check with a no-touch thermometer is included in the symptom check at entry if feasible
  - Adult visitors and staff who screen positive at entry or who report symptoms at any point during the school day are instructed to return home and self-isolate as required by Health Officer Order of July 1, 2020 (see [July 1 Isolation HOO.pdf](#)).
  - Students who screen positive at entry or who report symptoms at any point during the school day are given a surgical mask and accompanied to a pre-selected isolation space where they can remain while arrangements are made for their return home.
  - The COVID-19 Compliance Team (see Section A) is informed of any positive screening result in the school and initiates the School Exposure Management Plan consistent with DPH directives
  - Adult visitors and staff who have had close contact with an individual who has screened positive are instructed to return home to self-quarantine as required by Health Officer Order of July 1, 2020, until such time as it has been determined that the individual screening positive for COVID-19 symptoms is negative for COVID-19. (see [July 1 Quarantine HOO.pdf](#)).



- Students who have had close contact with an individual who has screened positive for COVID-19 symptoms are accompanied to preselected quarantine space where they can remain until arrangements are made for their return home. This space is apart from the one set aside for symptomatic students. It may be a separate room or an area within the same room that is set apart by a barrier. Once they return home, they are instructed to self-quarantine as required by Health Officer Order of May 1, 2020, until such time as it has been determined that the individual screening positive for COVID-19 symptoms is negative for COVID-19. (see [July 1 Quarantine HOO.pdf](#)).
- Screening of adults and of middle and high school age students includes a question about close contact with anyone at home, school or elsewhere that the individual has been told has tested positive for COVID-19.
  - Any adult who is screened for exposure and reports close contact with an infected person is instructed to leave the school, return home to initiate self-quarantine, and get testing for COVID-19.
  - Any middle or high school student who is screened for exposure and reports close contact with an infected person is provided with a surgical mask and accompanied to a predetermined space in the school while arrangements are made for them to be picked up by parents in order to initiate quarantine at home. Parents are advised to seek testing for the child.
- Measures are in place to limit risk of infection due to visits by individuals other than staff and students. These may include (check all that apply):
  - Visits to the school by individuals other than staff and students are avoided whenever feasible. Parents of enrolled students are encouraged to conduct business with school personnel remotely when possible.
  - Visitors to the school other than parents of enrolled students are limited to those who are essential for the school's operation. Visitors are by appointment only and are pre-registered in a visitor log that includes a visitor's name, phone number and email address. Visitors are instructed to come to their appointments alone. If a visitor must be accompanied by another person (e.g., for translation assistance, or because the visitor is a minor, or has minor students) their information is captured in the visitor log.
  - Visitors arriving at the school with non-enrolled children (e.g. younger siblings of students) must ensure that these children stay next to an adult, avoid touching any other person or any item that does not belong to them, and are masked if 2 or older and not at risk due to a respiratory condition.
  - Movement of visitors within the school is limited to designated areas such as the reception or lobby area, offices, conference or meeting rooms, and public rest rooms to the extent feasible.
  - Visitors arriving at the school are reminded to wear a face covering at all times while in the school. This applies to all adults and to children 2 years of age and older. Only individuals who have been instructed not to wear a face covering by their medical provider are exempt from wearing one. To support the safety of your employees and other visitors, a face covering should be made available to visitors who arrive without them.
- Measures are in place to promote optimal ventilation in the school. These may include (check all that apply):
  - The school HVAC system is in good, working order.
  - HVAC systems are set to maximize indoor/outdoor air exchange unless outdoor conditions (recent fire, very high outside temperature, high pollen count, etc.) make this inappropriate.
  - Portable, high-efficiency air cleaners have been installed if feasible

- Doors and windows are kept open during the school day if feasible and if outdoor conditions make this appropriate.
- Air filters have been upgraded to the highest efficiency possible.
- Other:  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Measures are in place to ensure appropriate cleaning and disinfecting of space, surfaces and objects throughout the school. These may include (check all that apply).
  - A cleaning and disinfecting schedule have been established in order to avoid both under- and over-use of cleaning products.
  - Buses are thoroughly cleaned and disinfected daily and after transporting any individual who is exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19. Drivers are equipped with disinfectant wipes and disposable gloves to support disinfection of surfaces as needed during a run. Frequently touched surfaces are disinfected after every completed bus route.
  - Common areas and frequently touched objects in those areas (tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, elevator switches and buttons, touch screens, printers/copiers, grab bars, and handrails) are disinfected three times daily using appropriate products (see below).
  - Use of shared objects is eliminated wherever possible, for example, water fountains are shut down and individual water bottles are provided as an alternative, high touch playground equipment may be taken out of use and replaced with no-touch playground games, etc.
  - Where individualized alternatives are not feasible, for example, in laboratories and art rooms where some equipment may have to be used by multiple students, objects and surfaces are cleaned and disinfected between users.
  - Cleaning products that are effective against COVID-19 (these are listed on the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-approved list “N”) are used according to product instructions.
  - To reduce asthma risk disinfectant products on list N with asthma-safer ingredients (hydrogen peroxide, citric acid or lactic acid) are selected. Products which contain peroxyacetic (peracetic) acid, sodium hypochlorite (bleach) or quaternary ammonium compounds are avoided.
  - Custodial and other staff responsible for cleaning and disinfecting school surfaces and objects are trained on manufacturer’s directions, Cal/OSHA requirements for safe use and as required by the Healthy Schools Act, as applicable.
  - Custodial staff and other staff responsible for cleaning and disinfecting are equipped with appropriate personal protective equipment, including gloves, eye protection, respiratory protection and other appropriate protective equipment as required by the product
  - All cleaning products are kept out of children’s reach and stored in a space with restricted access.
  - Ventilation is maximized during cleaning and disinfecting to the extent feasible If using air conditioning, use the setting that brings in fresh air. Replace and check air filters and filtration systems to ensure optimal air quality.
  - Cleaning is done when students are not at school with adequate time to let spaces air out before the start of the school day.
  - Steps are taken to ensure that all water systems and sinks are safe to use after a prolonged facility shutdown to minimize the risk of Legionnaires’ disease and other diseases associated with water.

- Restrooms, lobbies, break rooms, and lounges and other common areas are being disinfected frequently, on the following schedule:
  - Restrooms: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Lobbies/entry areas: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Teacher/staff break rooms: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Class rooms \_\_\_\_\_
  - Cafeteria dining area \_\_\_\_\_
  - Cafeteria food preparation area \_\_\_\_\_
  - Front office \_\_\_\_\_
  - Other offices \_\_\_\_\_
  - Other areas \_\_\_\_\_
  
- Measures are in place to ensure use of appropriate face coverings by all staff, students and visitors at all times. These may include (check all that apply):
  - Staff, parents and students are informed of the requirement for cloth face coverings prior to the start of school and on a regular basis throughout the school year.
  - All students over age 2 are required to wear cloth face coverings at all times while on school property except while eating, drinking or carrying out other activities that make that preclude use of face coverings.
    - Alternative protective strategies may be adopted to accommodate students who are on Individualized Education or 504 Plans and who cannot use or tolerate cloth face coverings.
  - Information is provided to staff, parents and students concerning proper use of cloth face covering including the need to wash cloth face coverings after each day's use.
  - Signage at the entry to the school, at the entry to the school office and throughout the school building reinforces this requirement and depicts proper use of cloth face coverings.
  - As feasible, two cloth face coverings are provided to each student at the start of the school year. If that is not feasible, parents and students are given information concerning methods for making their own cloth face coverings.
  - Parents of younger children are encouraged to provide a second face-covering for school each day in case the one a child is wearing gets soiled; this would allow for a change of the face covering during the day.
  - Staff who are deployed at school entry or in hallways or other common areas to reinforce physical distancing also remind students of rules concerning use of cloth face coverings.
  - Employees engaged in activities (such as provision of physical therapy or personal assistance to individual students) which may not permit physical distancing are equipped with appropriate personal protective equipment (gloves, masks, gowns, etc.) as appropriate.
  - Staff taking care of a sick student are provided with a medical grade mask to wear themselves, and a medical grade mask for the student to wear (if it can be tolerated) until the student leaves the building.

NOTE: Staff and students who are alone in closed offices, walled cubicles or other private, enclosed spaces are not required to wear cloth face coverings. Students may also remove cloth face coverings when eating or napping or when wearing a cloth face covering is otherwise impracticable (e.g., while showering,

etc.). The school may consider whether it is appropriate for a teacher in the early grades to use a plastic face shield with a tucked-in drape below the chin as a substitute for a cloth face covering to enable the youngest students to see their teacher's face and avoid potential barriers to phonological instruction.

- Measures are in place to ensure frequent hand washing by staff, students and visitors. These may include (check all that apply):
    - Students and staff are given frequent opportunities to wash their hands for 20 seconds with soap, rubbing thoroughly after application, and use paper towels (or single-use cloth towels) to dry hands thoroughly.
    - Younger students are regularly scheduled for frequent mandatory handwashing breaks, including before and after eating, after toileting, after outdoor play, and before and after any group activity.
    - Staff are instructed to model frequent handwashing, especially in lower grades where bathroom time is an opportunity to reinforce healthy habits and monitor proper handwashing.
    - Portable handwashing stations have been placed near classrooms to minimize movement and congregations in bathrooms to the extent practicable.
    - Ethyl alcohol-based, hand sanitizer is made available to students and staff at strategic locations throughout the school where there is no sink or portable handwashing station (in or near classrooms, rooms in which support services are provided, music and art rooms). Ethyl alcohol is preferred and should be used when there is the potential of unsupervised use by children. Isopropyl hand sanitizers are more toxic and can be absorbed through the skin.
    - Hand sanitizer based on isopropyl alcohol is not used in the school given its potential toxicity and hand sanitizer is not out in the open in classrooms of children under age 9. Faculty and staff have been made aware of the risk of ingestion and that they should call Poison Control at 1-800-222-1222 if there is reason to believe that a student has consumed hand sanitizer.
    - Hand sanitizer, soap and water, tissues and trash cans are available to the public at or near the entrance of the facility, at reception, and anywhere else inside the workplace or immediately outside where people have direct interactions.
  - Measures are in place to ensure infection control in the school cafeteria or other site at which food is served or picked up.
    - Buffet and family style meals have been eliminated.
    - Food options include prepackaged meals, hot meals served by cafeteria staff and/or food brought by students from home.
    - Physical barriers are in place where needed to limit contact between cafeteria staff and students.
  - Optional-Describe other measures
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**D. MEASURES THAT COMMUNICATE TO THE CAMPUS COMMUNITY AND THE PUBLIC**

- Information was sent to parents and students prior to the start of school concerning school policies related to (check all that apply):
  - Isolation and quarantine policies as they apply to students who have symptoms or may have been exposed to COVID-19 \_\_\_\_\_
  - Options for COVID-19 testing if the student or a family member has symptoms or has been exposed to COVID-19 \_\_\_\_\_
  - Who to contact at the school if student has symptoms or may have been exposed \_\_\_\_\_
  - How to conduct a symptom check before student leaves home \_\_\_\_\_
  - Required use of face coverings \_\_\_\_\_
  - Importance of student compliance with physical distancing and infection control policies \_\_\_\_\_
  - Changes in academic and extracurricular programming in order to avert risk \_\_\_\_\_
  - Changes in school meals in order to avert risk \_\_\_\_\_
  - School policies concerning parent visits to school and advisability of contacting the school remotely \_\_\_\_\_
  - Importance of providing the school with up-to-date emergency contact information including multiple parent contact options \_\_\_\_\_
  - Other: \_\_\_\_\_
  
- A copy of this protocol is posted at all public entrances to the school.
- Signage has been posted throughout the school reminding staff and students of policies concerning physical distancing, use of face coverings, and importance of hand washing.
- Signage is posted at each public entrance of the school informing visitors that they should not enter the facility if they have symptoms of COVID-19.
- The school has developed and circulated a communication plan in case full or partial closure is required due to a possible cluster of COVID-19 cases.
- Online outlets of the school (website, social media, etc.) provide clear, up-to-date information about building hours, visitation policies, changes in academic and extracurricular programming, and requirements concerning use of face coverings, physical distancing and hand washing.
- Online outlets instruct students, parents and teachers on how to contact the school in case of infection or exposure.

**E. MEASURES THAT ENSURE EQUITABLE ACCESS TO CRITICAL SERVICES**

- Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) and 504 Plans of students with special needs have been modified to ensure that education can continue without undue risk to the student. Plans may involve remote learning, school attendance in a separate area with few students, or a hybrid approach combining in-class and remote learning.
- An individualized health and safety plan has been created for each enrolled student with special needs  
Elements included in individual plans include
  - Information derived from consultation with parents and students concerning any physical, medical, cognitive and/or social/emotional challenges that may affect the student’s safety needs at school in the context of COVID-19.
  - Contingency plans in case the student screens positive for symptoms of COVID-19 or is identified as a close contact of someone who is symptomatic or has screened positive for COVID-19.
  - Contingency plans in case a cluster of COVID-19 cases requires full or partial school shut-down.
- An option for remote learning or other alternative to in-class learning is available for any student for whom school attendance poses elevated risk.
- An option for “Grab and Go” school meals is offered to any student who is eligible for the school meal program but would face elevated risk attending school in person.
  - Administrative services or operations that can be offered remotely (e.g., class registration, form submission, etc.) have been moved on-line.

**Any additional measures not included above should be listed on separate pages, which the business should attach to this document.**

**You may contact the following person with any questions or comments about this protocol:**

**Business Contact Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date Last Revised:** \_\_\_\_\_

## Protocol for COVID-19 Exposure Management Plan in K-12 Schools

**NOTE:** This protocol document may be updated as additional information and resources become available. Check the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health website: <http://www.ph.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/> for updates to this document.

A targeted public health response to contain COVID-19 exposures at a community-level can help maximize the impact of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (DPH) COVID-19 response.

Primary and Secondary Schools serving students from Kindergarten through Grade 12 (K-12 Schools) are trusted community partners that can help DPH improve the timeliness and impact of the Public Health response through rapid initiation of a COVID-19 Exposure Management Plan (EMP) when notified of COVID-19 cases and clusters at school. The School EMP can be implemented before COVID-19 case reports are received by DPH, thereby accelerating the ability to contain spread of COVID-19 and prevent school outbreaks from happening.

The steps for exposure management of 1, 2, and 3 or more COVID-19 cases at K-12 Schools are described below and summarized in Appendix A. Because K-12 Schools will vary in the level of resources for COVID-19 exposure management, *required* steps are the minimum required elements that should be included in the School EMP. *Recommended* steps include elements for localized management of exposures where school resources are available.

### Exposure Management Planning Prior to 1 COVID-19 Case at School

- Required:* A designated School COVID-19 Compliance Task Force that is responsible for establishing and enforcing all COVID-19 safety protocols and ensuring that staff and students receive education about COVID-19. A designated COVID-19 Compliance Officer who serves as a liaison to DPH in the event of a COVID-19 cluster or outbreak at the setting.
- Required:* A plan for all students and employees who are suspected to have COVID-19 or are quarantined because of exposure to case(s) at school to have access to testing or be tested for COVID-19.

### Exposure Management for 1 COVID-19 Case at School

- Required:* If school is notified of 1 confirmed case (student or employee), School Compliance Task Force requests that the case follow Home Isolation Instructions for COVID-19 ([www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/ncorona\\_2019/covidisolation/](http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/ncorona_2019/covidisolation/)).
- Required:* School Compliance Task Force informs the case that DPH will follow-up directly with the case through the DPH Case and Contact Investigation Program to collect additional information and issue the Health Officer Order for Case Isolation.

*Required:* School Compliance Task Force works with the case to generate a list of students and employees with exposure to the case during the infectious period. School Compliance Officer provides DPH with the names and contact information of the case and identified contacts within 1 business day of notification of a confirmed case.

- A case is considered to be infectious from 48 hours before their symptoms first appeared until the time they are no longer required to be isolated (i.e., no fever for at least **24 hours**, without the use of medicine that reduce fevers AND respiratory systems have improved AND at least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared). A person with a positive COVID-19 test but no symptoms is considered to be infectious from 48 hours before their test was taken until 10 days after their test.
- A person is considered to have been exposed if they are one of the following:
  - An individual who was within 6 feet of the infected person for more than 15 minutes, even if a non-medical face covering was worn;
  - An individual who had unprotected contact with the infected person's body fluids and/or secretions of a person with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 (e.g., being coughed or sneezed on, sharing utensils or saliva, or providing care without using appropriate protective equipment).

*Required:* Students and employees that are identified to have an exposure to the case are notified by the School Compliance Task Force through a letter or other communication strategies (e.g., telephone, text, Robo-Calls). A School Exposure Notification letter template is available at: [COVID-19 Template Notification Letters for Education Settings](#). The notification should include the following elements:

- Instruct students and employees with an exposure to the case to test for COVID-19, whether or not they have symptoms, and inform the school of test results. This will determine the extent of disease spread at school and serve as a basis for further control measures. Testing resources include: Employee Health Services or Occupational Health Services, Student Health Center, Personal Healthcare Providers, Community Testing Sites: [covid19.lacounty.gov/testing](https://covid19.lacounty.gov/testing). Individuals who need assistance finding a medical provider can call the LA County Information line 2-1-1, which is available 24/7.
- Instruct exposed students and employees to quarantine for 14 days since last exposure to the case while infectious, even if they receive a negative test result during their quarantine period. A person who tests negative during the incubation period (i.e. time period between exposure to disease onset) may subsequently develop disease, with or without symptoms. Home Quarantine Guidance for COVID-19 is available at: [www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/ncorona/2019/covidquarantine/](https://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/ncorona/2019/covidquarantine/).
- Notification that DPH will follow-up directly with exposed students and employees through the DPH Case and Contact Investigation Program to collect additional information and issue the Health Officer Order for Quarantine.

*Recommended:* School Compliance Task Force will determine whether additional notification is needed to inform wider school community about the school exposure and precautions being taken to prevent spread of COVID-19. A general notification letter template is available at: [COVID-19 Template Notification Letters for Education Settings](#).



Exposure Management for 2 COVID-19 Cases at School within a 14-day Period

*Required:* If the school is notified of 2 confirmed cases (students and/or employees) within a 14-day period, school follows *required* steps for 1 confirmed case.

*Recommended:* School Compliance Task Force assesses whether the 2 confirmed cases have epidemiological links (i.e., present at the same place and time during the infectious period\*).

*\*A case is considered to be infectious from 48 hours before symptoms first appeared until they are no longer required to be isolated (i.e., no fever for at least 24 hours without the use of medicine that reduces fever AND symptoms have improved AND at least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared). A person with a positive COVID-19 test but no symptoms is considered to be infectious from 48 hours before their test was taken until 10 days after their test.*

- Determination of epidemiological links between cases may require further investigation to understand exposure history and identify all possible locations and persons that may have been exposed to the case while infectious. A tool is available to assist in the assessment of epidemiological links at: [COVID-19 Exposure Investigation Worksheet for the Education Sector](#). For technical assistance on how to assess for epidemiological links, please contact [ACDC-Education@ph.lacounty.gov](mailto:ACDC-Education@ph.lacounty.gov).
- If epidemiological links do not exist, school continues with routine COVID-19 exposure monitoring.
- If epidemiological links exist, school reinforces messages to students and employees on precautions to take to prevent spread at the school, including implementation of site-specific interventions.

Exposure Management for  $\geq 3$  COVID-19 Cases at School within a 14-day Period

*Required:* If the school is notified of a cluster of 3 or more confirmed cases (students and/or employees) within a 14-day period, the school proceeds with the following steps:

- Report cluster to DPH Acute Communicable Disease Control (ACDC) Education Sector Team within 1 business day of notification of the cluster at: [ACDC-Education@ph.lacounty.gov](mailto:ACDC-Education@ph.lacounty.gov) or call (888) 397-3993 or (213) 240-7821.
- Complete *Line List for Cases and Contacts*, available at: [COVID-19 Case and Contact Line List for the Educational Sector](#) and submit to [ACDC-Education@ph.lacounty.gov](mailto:ACDC-Education@ph.lacounty.gov). For technical assistance on how to complete the line list contact [ACDC-Education@ph.lacounty.gov](mailto:ACDC-Education@ph.lacounty.gov).
- The ACDC Education Sector Team will review *Line List for Cases and Contacts* to determine whether the outbreak criteria have been met. The ACDC team will contact the school within 1 business day of receipt to advise on next steps.
- If it is determined that outbreak criteria are not met: continue with routine COVID-19 exposure monitoring.
- If it is determined that outbreak criteria are met, DPH Outbreak Management Branch (OMB) is activated.
- An OMB public health investigator is assigned to coordinate with the school on outbreak management for the duration of the outbreak investigation.

- School Compliance Task Force will submit requested information, including updates to the *Line List for Cases and Contacts* to the OMB Investigator until the outbreak is resolved (at least 14 days since the last confirmed case).

□ *Recommended:* Prior to reporting cluster to DPH ACDC Education Sector Team, School Compliance Task Force will assess whether at least 3 cases in the cluster have epidemiological links. A tool is available to assist in the assessment of epidemiological links at: [COVID-19 Exposure Investigation Worksheet for the Education Sector](#). For technical assistance on how to assess for epidemiological links, please contact [ACDC-Education@ph.lacounty.gov](mailto:ACDC-Education@ph.lacounty.gov).

- If epidemiological links do not exist between at least 3 cases in the cluster, the school continues with routine COVID-19 exposure monitoring.
- If epidemiological links exist between at least 3 cases in the cluster, report cluster to DPH Acute Communicable Disease Control (ACDC) Education Sector Team at [ACDC-Education@ph.lacounty.gov](mailto:ACDC-Education@ph.lacounty.gov) or call (888) 397-3993 or (213) 240-7821.

### COVID-19 Outbreak Criteria for K-12 Schools

#### School cluster

At least 3 laboratory-confirmed cases from different households with symptomatic or asymptomatic COVID-19 over a 14-day period in group(s)\* that are epidemiologically linked.

*\*Groups include persons that share common membership, e.g., classroom, school event, school extracurricular activity, academic class, sport teams, clubs, transportation.*

For more information, please contact the ACDC Education Sector Team at [ACDC-Education@ph.lacounty.gov](mailto:ACDC-Education@ph.lacounty.gov).

#### **Appendix A: Steps for Managing Exposures to 1, 2, and ≥ 3 COVID-19 Cases at School**

##### **1 Case**

- 1) School receives notification of 1 confirmed case at school.
  - 2) *Required:* School requests that case follow Home Isolation Instructions for COVID-19 (a).
  - 3) *Required:* School informs case that the Department of Public Health (DPH) will contact the case to collect additional information and issue Health Officer Order for self-isolation (a).
  - 4) *Required:* School works with case to determine contacts that were exposed to case at school while infectious.
  - 5) *Required:* School notifies contacts of school exposure, requests contacts to follow instructions for self-quarantine (b) and test for COVID-19.
  - 6) *Required:* School informs contacts that DPH will follow up to collect additional information and issue Health Officer Order for self-quarantine (b).
  - 7) *Required:* School provides DPH with names and contact information for case and identified school contacts.
  - 8) *Recommended:* School can send general notification to inform the wider school community (recipients determined by school) of the exposure and precautions taken to prevent spread.
- Note: Template letters for exposure notification and general notification are available at: [COVID-19 Template Notification Letters for Education Settings](#).

**2  
Cases**

- 1) *Required:* Follow steps for 1 confirmed case.
- 2) *Recommended:* If cases occurred within 14 days of each other, school determines whether epidemiological (epi) links exist (cases present in the same setting during the same time period while infectious). A COVID-19 Exposure Investigation Worksheet for the Education Sector tool is available to help assess for epi links.
  - \*Epi links do not exist: continue with routine exposure monitoring.
  - \*Epi links exist: School reinforces messages to students and employees on precautions taken to prevent spread; implement site-specific interventions, as needed, to reduce transmission.

**3+  
Cases**

- 1) *Required:* If a cluster of 3 or more cases occurred within 14 days of each other, school notifies ACDC Education Sector Team at ACDC-Education@ph.lacounty.gov.
- 2) *Recommended:* Prior to notifying ACDC Education Sector Team of cluster, school assesses whether epi links exist for  $\geq 3$  cases. If epi links do not exist, continue with routine monitoring.
- 3) *Required:* ACDC Education Sector Team requests that the COVID-19 Case and Contact Line List for the Educational Sector be completed by school to determine if outbreak criteria have been met. ACDC will contact school within 1 business day to advise on next steps.
  - \*Outbreak criteria not met: school continues with routine exposure monitoring.
  - \*Outbreak criteria met: DPH Outbreak Management Branch (OMB) activated.
- 4) *Required:* During the outbreak investigation, school provides updates to OMB investigator until outbreak is resolved (at least 14 days since last confirmed case).

- (a) Health Officer Order, cases directed to self-isolate until no fever for at least **24 hours** (without the use of medicine that reduces fever) **AND symptoms** have improved AND at least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared OR, if case has no symptoms, until 10 days have passed after their positive test was taken. <http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/ncorona2019/covidisolation/>.
- (b) Health Officer Order, contacts directed to quarantine for 14 days since date of last exposure to case while infectious. <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/ncorona2019/covidquarantine/>.