



COVID 19 Health and Safety Policy

August 10, 2024

I. PURPOSE

The Wildcat Canyon Community School (WCCS) is deeply committed to providing in person school programming without compromising the health and safety of all of our community members. To this end, WCCS is following all applicable state and local guidance related to COVID-19. At heart, teachers and parents all want their children to be safe and our policy framework is intended to establish a baseline of practices for us to trust as a community.

The main goal of this policy is to prevent transmission of COVID-19 viruses among our community while ensuring that all students have as much safe and full in-person instructional time as possible. This policy is based on the July 11, 2024 [Public Health Guidance for TK–12 Schools and Child Care Settings to Support Safe In-Person Services and Mitigate the Spread of Communicable Diseases, 2024-2025 School Year](#) issued by the California Department of Public Health, May 22, 2024 [COVID-19 Prevention – Non-Emergency Regulation What Employers Need to Know](#)¹ fact sheet published by Cal OSHA, and CDC guide on [Preventing Spread of Infections in K-12 Schools](#). The policy will be updated to reflect changes made on the local and the State level. It is important that our entire community is familiar with this policy, and its subsequent updates, and follow all procedures contained herein.

II. ROLES and RESPONSIBILITIES

Board of Trustees

¹ Cal OSHA COVID-19 Prevention Non-Emergency Regulations expire on February 3, 2025.

The Board of Trustees is responsible for ensuring that all necessary school functions are in place and functional. Specifically, the school's Administration Circle is responsible for creating this policy and keeping it up to date. In addition, the Administration Circle is responsible for making sure that staff and community members are aware of this policy and its requirements.

Teachers

The teachers are responsible for being intimately familiar with the policy and its implementation guidance as described herein. The teachers are responsible for ensuring that children under their supervision follow guidelines outlined below.

Parents and School Volunteers

Parents and school volunteers are responsible for being intimately familiar with the policy and its implementation guidelines as described below.

III. SCHOOL WIDE SAFETY MEASURES

A. FACE COVERINGS

Face coverings are recommended for students and community members following COVID-19 diagnosis (with or without symptoms) through day 10 or following two sequential negative tests at least one day apart. Day 0 is symptom onset date or positive test date.

Face coverings are required for employees through day 10 per Cal OSHA COVID-19 Prevention Non-Emergency Standards. Day 0 is symptom onset date or positive test date. The school will provide face covering to all staff at no cost.

B. VENTILATION

The school follows the August 14, 2023 [Interim Guidance for Ventilation, Filtration, and Air Quality in Indoor Environments](#) issued by CDPH and Cal OSHA COVID-19 Prevention Non-Emergency Standards.

- 1) Unless prohibited due to incremental weather, unhealthy air quality days or similar, all classes will have a combination of indoor and outdoor experiences.
- 2) When air quality is AQI 100 or better, our school will optimize ventilation in indoor spaces by opening all available windows and doors throughout the school day.
- 3) Each classroom is equipped with and will run high-quality air filters with HEPA components.
- 4) Each bathroom is well ventilated.

C. HAND HYGIENE

- 1) The teachers will teach and reinforce washing hands, avoiding contact with one's eyes, nose, and mouth, and covering coughs and sneezes among students.
- 2) Handwashing will be promoted throughout the day, especially before and after eating as well as after using the toilet.
- 3) The school will ensure adequate supplies of resources to support healthy hygiene behaviors.

D. INFECTIOUS PERIOD

Effective January 9, 2024, CDPH has adopted the following definition of "infectious period":

- For COVID-19 cases with symptoms, it is a minimum of 24 hours from the day of symptom onset. COVID-19 cases may return if 24 hours have passed with no fever, without the use of fever-reducing medications, and their symptoms are mild and improving, OR
- For COVID-19 cases with no symptoms, there is no infectious period for the purpose of isolation or exclusion. If symptoms develop, the criteria above will apply.

E. ISOLATION REQUIREMENTS FOR POSITIVE CASES

In accordance with January 9, 2024 CDPH [COVID-19 Disease Control & Prevention Order](#) the following isolation and exclusion of confirmed cases applies.

For COVID-19 cases **with symptoms**, with or without fever, students/staff may return to School campus if:

- 24 hours have passed with no fever, without the use of fever-reducing medications, AND
- symptoms are mild and improving.

For COVID-19 cases **with no symptoms**, there is no period of isolation or exclusion. If symptoms develop, the criteria above will apply.

F. TESTING

CDPH no longer recommends testing for all close contacts² and instead recommends testing only for:

- All people with new COVID-19 symptoms, and
- Close contacts who are at higher risk of severe disease or who have contact with people who are at higher risk of severe disease.

For the purposes of diagnostic testing for COVID-19, any PCR (molecular) or antigen test used must either have an Emergency Use Authorization by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration or be operating per the Laboratory Developed Test requirements by the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. In-home tests are acceptable as long as they meet the above requirements.

In accordance with Cal OSHA's COVID-19 Prevention Non-Emergency Standards, the school will continue to make COVID-19 testing available at no cost and during paid time **to all employees** with a close contact, except for asymptomatic employees who recently recovered from COVID-19.

G. COVID-19 REPORTING

Any confirmed COVID-19 cases, via test or doctor's diagnosis, must be reported to a confidentially managed inbox at covid@wildcatcanyon.org.

H. CLOSE CONTACT NOTIFICATIONS

The requirements to notify students of close contacts are no longer in place. The school will send out a general notification to the entire community during times of elevated community transmission.

In accordance with Cal OSHA's COVID-19 Prevention Non-Emergency Standards, the school will notify its employees and independent contractors who had a close contact within 24 hours of exposure.

I. REPORTING of COVID-19 CASES

The requirements to report student COVID-19 cases to a local health department are no longer in place. The school will follow reporting requirements for school employees in accordance with [Cal OSHA COVID-19 Prevention Non-Emergency Standards](#).

² Close contact means the following:

(A) In indoor spaces of 400,000 or fewer cubic feet per floor, a close contact is defined as sharing the same indoor airspace 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.

(B) In indoor spaces of greater than 400,000 cubic feet per floor, a close contact is defined as being within six feet of the 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.

(C) Offices, suites, rooms, waiting areas, break or eating areas, bathrooms, or other spaces that are separated by floor-to-ceiling walls shall be considered distinct indoor spaces.

