

COVID-19 K-12 School Guidance

AT A GLANCE

This document is meant to provide a summary of CDPH's guidance initially released July 12, 2021, with additional input from Kern County Public Health. School districts should be familiar with the complete guidance [HERE](#) and all related requirements. Additional information is available in the embedded hyperlinks.



Masking

Masks are required for students and all adults when students are present on buses and indoors in a school setting. Masks are optional outdoors. School district must have local protocols on how to enforce mask requirements. For information regarding mask exemptions, click [HERE](#).



Physical Distancing

General physical distancing requirements within schools and on school buses have been eliminated when other mitigation strategies (e.g., masking) are implemented. Distancing should still be used when masking is not possible (e.g., during meals).



Seating Charts

Contact tracing is an important COVID-19 mitigation strategy. Using a seating chart, especially when students are unmasked (e.g., during mealtime), will assist with contact tracing. Schools may also consider implementing seating charts on buses and inside the classroom.



Food/Drink Service

There is no need to limit meals to single use or packaged items. However, physical distancing should be used as much as possible during meals (especially indoors). Using outdoor spaces or areas outside the cafeteria (e.g., classroom or gym) will help with distancing. The use of indoor and outdoor drinking fountains is permitted.



Quarantines

When both parties are masked in the indoor school setting, unvaccinated students who are close contacts may undergo a **modified 10-day quarantine**. They may continue to attend school for in-person instruction if they: Are asymptomatic; Continue to appropriately mask, as required; Undergo twice weekly testing during the 10-day quarantine; and, refrain from all extracurricular activities at school, including sports, and community activities.

Fully vaccinated students exposed to COVID-19 may refrain from quarantine following a known exposure if asymptomatic.

For additional quarantine scenarios, please see an infographic [HERE](#).



Parent / Staff Notifications

Parents of students who are close contacts are required to be notified of the exposure. Moreover, while there is no longer a requirement to notify the entire school community of a positive case on campus, it is a best practice to do so in the interest of transparency. However, staff must be notified of a positive case on campus as this is a requirement of Cal/OSHA.



Surveillance Testing

Surveillance testing is recommended, but NOT required, unless a student is on Modified Quarantine, for which he/she must undergo at least twice weekly testing during the 10-day modified quarantine.



Mobile Vaccination Clinics

According to CDC, CDPH and Kern County Public Health, vaccinations remain the best defense against COVID-19. For information about hosting a mobile vaccination clinic, please contact Carly Dawson, coordinator of mobile vaccinations, at dawsonc@kerncounty.com.



Case Reporting

Per AB 86 (2021) and California Code of Regulations Title 17, section 2500, schools are required to report COVID-19 cases to the local public health department. Please use [THIS FORM](#) for the positive individual's information and [THIS SPREADSHEET](#) to list all exposed individuals. Email both documents to: devlinm@kerncounty.com, ochoaja@kerncounty.com, and jomendiburu@kern.org.



COVID Contact Tracing Coordinators

Each school district should have a dedicated COVID-19 Coordinator who can oversee contact tracing efforts and be the liaison between the school district and Kern County Public Health. This will streamline the communication between the organizations. A large school district may consider having one coordinator per school site.



School-Related Events

Indoor events like back to school night, parent teacher conferences, or performances that are deemed essential by the school district are permitted, as long as everyone is masked. All visitors should sign-in at the event for contact tracing purposes.



Sports / Extracurriculars

The California Department of Public Health is in the process of updating its guidance for youth sports and other activities. More information will be forthcoming.



School/Site Closures

The intent of the current schools guidance is to maximize instruction time and minimize missed school days. Therefore, current state guidance does not require a classroom, school or district to close based on a set number of confirmed COVID-19 cases. This determination should be made on a case by case basis by the school district based on contact tracing.



Health Screenings

Health screenings (e.g., temperature checks) are no longer required. However, staff members and students with symptoms of COVID-19 infection should remain home and not to return school until they have met CDPH criteria to return.



Guests/Volunteers

Schools should limit nonessential visitors, volunteers, and activities involving external groups or organizations with people who are not fully vaccinated. All visitors should sign-in at the event for contact tracing purposes.



Safety Plans / CPP

It is recommended that at a minimum all local educational agencies (LEAs) post a safety plan, communicating the safety measures in place for 2021-22, on the LEA's website and at schools, and disseminate to families in advance of the start of the school year. These plans do not need to be submitted to Kern County Public Health.

Ca/OSHA COVID Prevention Program (CPP) remains a requirement. Please find the most recent model CPP [HERE](#).