COVID-19 Safety Plan for Junípero Serra High School 2022-2023

This plan is based upon guidance from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), San Mateo County Health (SMCH), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Cal/OSHA as presented in the San Mateo County Office of Education COVID-19 Safe Schools Framework.

The plan also aligns with the guidelines and policies set forth by the Archdiocese of San Francisco.

August 22, 2022

This plan will continue to be updated as new information becomes available.

Junípero Serra High School prioritizes the safety of its students and staff. This plan lays out our COVID-19 school safety plan for the 2022-23 school year. According to CDPH, COVID-19 is here to stay, and California schools can manage the disease in sustainable and adaptive manners. Given the continuing dynamic nature of the COVID-19 outbreak, we can expect public health guidance will be updated throughout the school year. Serra High School will update its practices to align with this guidance while protecting the health and safety of our school community.

Vaccination

Vaccination is an important strategy to protect students, staff and community members. The vast majority of Serra students, faculty and staff members who are eligible are fully vaccinated.* Serra will work to support those who are unvaccinated to learn more about the vaccine and the benefits of vaccination. Steps will be taken to protect those who are not vaccinated.

Per CDPH guidance, Serra will seek documentation of the vaccination status of all faculty, staff, students, and volunteers. Verification of vaccination status can inform important school practices around testing.

Vaccination status will be documented with proof of vaccination or with a completed and signed ***Self-Certification of COVID-19 Vaccination Status***.

Serra will use the same protocols for COVID-19 vaccination status that are used to collect and secure other immunization or health status information from students. These protocols comply with relevant statutory and regulatory requirements, including Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) statutory and regulatory requirements.

If a student, faculty or staff member is unable or unwilling to share their vaccination status, they will be treated as **not vaccinated** for all purposes of this plan.

Other than completing the confidential *Self-Certification of Vaccination Status* form, an individual's vaccination status is confidential medical information; thus, Serra has instructed employees and students not to discuss their vaccination status.

* Fully vaccinated: two weeks after completion of two-dose mRNA vaccine or one dose of Jassen vaccine.

Masks

Masks, particularly high-quality, well-fitting masks, remain highly effective, inexpensive and dynamic tools to protect oneself and mitigate transmission of COVID-19 and other respiratory pathogens. The following summarizes Serra's masking policies:

- In accordance with **CDPH face mask guidance**, Serra supports and respects individual choice to mask indoors.
- Acceptable masks include N95, KN95 and/or 3-ply surgical. Double masking is an effective way to improve fit and filtration. A close-fitting cloth mask can be worn on top of a surgical/ disposable mask to improve the seal of the mask to the face.

- Serra will provide a mask to students and staff members who request one.
- If a student or faculty member tests out of isolation before their Day 10 from their Onset Date, the student or faculty member will be required to wear a mask **at all times** (outside or inside) until Day 11.
- All passengers and drivers are strongly recommended to wear a mask on school vehicles and other forms of student transportation. (Serra will provide N95 or KN95 to all riding in school provided transportation upon request.)
- Those staff members who are not fully vaccinated may request that Serra provide respirators for voluntary use.
- In **outbreaks** (an outbreak is defined as three or more cases in an exposed workgroup in a 14-day period; in **major outbreaks** (defined as 20 or more cases within a 30-day period) all students and staff must wear masks indoors and outdoors when six-feet physical distancing cannot be maintained, regardless of vaccination status.
    - During periods when masks are *required* by local authorities, staff and other adults exempted from wearing a mask due to a medical condition must wear a non-restrictive alternative, such as a face shield with a drape on the bottom edge, as long as their condition permits it.
    - During periods when masks are *required* by local authorities, students who refuse to wear a mask will not be allowed to attend classes nor participate in extracurricular activities.

Gatherings

Especially during surges of COVID-19, school dances, large assemblies and other school-based crowded events, especially those held indoors, all have the potential to cause substantial spread of COVID-19 with and beyond the school community.

Although CDPH does not specifically address gatherings in its guidance, Serra will consider all of the following when organizing meetings and events: limit the size of indoor gatherings, increase distance among participants and/or adjust masking requirements, require proof of vaccination or proof of a current negative test. Even if events are outdoors and participants are vaccinated, Serra will consider these adjustments when planning meetings and events.

Ventilation

Quality HVAC system design, operation and maintenance are critical for providing clean and healthy Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) in schools. In addition to improving occupant health and performance, regular HVAC maintenance saves energy.

- Each classroom is equipped with an XPOWER X-3780 air scrubber with a 600 CFM fan capable of 4.1 room changes per hour in the largest classrooms. It has a four-stage filtration system that includes HEPA filtration. Air purifiers will remain on during class periods; they will be turned to the highest setting between class periods, which allows at least one room change filtration of the air within the passing period.

- All filters in the HVAC system have been replaced with MERV-13 filters. Offices and conference rooms where more than one person will work or meet are equipped with air purifiers with HEPA filtration.
- Windows and hallway doors will remain open throughout the school day.
- Serra's facility manager and administration will monitor air quality. If needed, Serra will consider dismissing students and moving to distance learning until air quality improves and proper ventilation on indoor classrooms/common areas can resume.
- When experiencing unhealthy air quality (typically associated with wildfires), Serra will implement the Big Five Shelter in Place Protocol, which includes:
    - Keeping doors and windows shut.
    - Holding outdoor classes and meals inside.
    - Setting the central system's circulating fan to operate continuously.
    - Using portable air cleaners in rooms.

Hand Hygiene

Promoting and making time for hand washing is a CDPH-recommended safety layer. As appropriate and feasible:

- Staff will provide students with training on proper handwashing technique.
- Students will wash hands and use hand sanitizer throughout the day, including during transition between classes, at lunch time, and before and after PE.
- Hand sanitizer stations are available throughout the campus.
- Serra will also ensure adequate supplies to support healthy hygiene behaviors, including soap, tissues, no-touch trash cans, masks and hand sanitizers with at least 60 percent ethyl alcohol for staff and students who can safely use hand sanitizer.

Cleaning

- Serra will continue to implement appropriate and thorough cleaning and disinfecting protocols throughout its facilities.
- Serra's maintenance team is supported by an outside cleaning service, Service by Medallion, to ensure thorough, daily deep cleaning during the evening hours. Medallion is also contracted to provide deep cleaning in the event of a positive COVID-19 case occurring on campus.

Food and Meals

- Serra will arrange for students and staff to eat outdoors as often as feasible. When students and staff are eating indoors, we will maximize physical distance as much as possible.
- Custodial staff will clean frequently touched surfaces. Surfaces that come in contact with food will be washed, rinsed and sanitized before and after meals.
- Given the very low risk of transmission of COVID-19 from surfaces and shared objects, there is no need to limit food service approaches to single use items and packaged meals; therefore, FLIK Independent School Dining, Serra's food-service vendor, will provide a complete dining program for students and staff.

Training

Serra faculty and staff will participate in a safety protocol meeting to discuss the plan prior to the opening of school. A copy of this plan will be shared with families and posted on our website, and school staff will review the school's safety protocols and expectations for families. Both staff and families will have the opportunity to ask questions and get a clear understanding of the plan. We also will provide updated information on our website.

Visitors

Serra has adopted the CDPH's recommendations for visitors to campus and has developed a visitor policy.

- Serra will limit nonessential visitors, volunteers and activities involving external groups or organizations with people who are not fully vaccinated, particularly when there is moderate-to-high COVID-19 community transmission.
- Visitors may be asked to show proof of vaccination or may be asked to provide a negative test before entering campus.
- Serra will not limit access for direct service providers but will require they comply with school visitor policies.
- Anyone, including visitors, who has symptoms of infectious illness, such as flu or COVID-19, should stay home, get tested and seek care as needed.
- All visitors will be required to comply with masking protocols in effect at the time of their visit to campus.
- Serra will implement measures to communicate mask recommendations or requirements to all campus visitors.

Extracurricular and Athletic Activities

- Students who are close contacts may participate in extracurricular and athletic activities after an exposure to COVID-19 as long as they remain symptom free.

Travel and Holiday Breaks

Serra strongly advises families to avoid any unnecessary travel during the school year. If travel is unavoidable, please review the CDC guidelines for recommendations and requirements concerning travel. Serra may request that students and staff test for COVID-19 prior to returning to campus after traveling. Serra also may request that all students and staff test for COVID-19 prior to returning to school following a scheduled school or holiday break.

Move to Antigen Testing

According to CDPH, antigen tests should be considered the primary option for detecting COVID-19 in schools, instead of PCR tests. Antigen tests that provide rapid results are much better to guide immediate isolation to prevent transmission. A PCR test, on the other hand, picks up very low levels of virus, both before and after infection (sometimes for months), leading to students and staff unnecessarily missing school despite feeling well and not being a risk to others.

Screening Testing

Serra will test unvaccinated faculty, staff an contracted volunteers weekly in accordance with mandates established by the CDPH and the Archdiocese of San Francisco.

Stay Home When Sick and Test

Staying home when sick can lower the risk of spreading infectious diseases, including COVID-19, to other people. The CDPH notes that getting tested immediately for COVID-19 when symptoms are consistent with COVID-19 will help prevent possible spread at schools. CDPH recommends that staff members and students with symptoms of COVID-19 infection not return for in-person instruction until they have met these criteria:

- At least 24 hours have passed since resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications; ***and***
- Other symptoms have improved; ***and***
- They have a negative COVID-19 antigen test *(CDPH recommends remaining in isolation and retesting with an antigen test in 1-2 days if testing negative, particularly if tested during the first 1-2 days of symptoms. Testing between days 3-5 is advised*), ***OR*** a healthcare provider has provided documentation that the symptoms are typical of their underlying chronic condition (e.g., allergies or asthma), ***OR*** a healthcare provider has confirmed an alternative named diagnosis (e.g., Streptococcal pharyngitis, Coxsackie virus).

Students, teachers and staff who have symptoms of infectious illness, such as influenza (flu) or COVID-19, should stay home, test, and reach out to their healthcare provider for care.

- Staff should contact the Serra COVID coordinators at covid@serrahs.com if they are experiencing any common symptoms of COVID-19 or are not feeling well.

- Parents and guardians should contact covid@serrahs.com, if their student tests positive for COVID-19. It is imperative that parents and guardians keep students home and if they are showing signs and symptoms of COVID-19.

Common Symptoms of COVID-19 (CDPH)

- Headache
- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue (tiredness)
- Muscle or body aches
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

When Students or Staff Develop COVID-19 Symptoms at School

Students or staff members who develop symptoms of COVID-19 while on campus will be separated from others in a designated area until they can be transported home or to a medical provider. If they test positive for COVID-19, they will be directed to work with their health provider for monitoring.

If the student or staff member tests negative for COVID-19, he or she may return to school following the school's health policies, which is usually 24 hours after a fever subsides without the use of medication and symptoms have improved.

Everyone who is infected with COVID-19, regardless of vaccination status, previous infection or lack of symptoms, is expected to follow the CDPH recommendations for isolation and quarantine.

Isolation Table

Individuals who test positive for COVID-19 must follow the directions below:

Vaccination Status	Requirements for Staff/ Recommendations for Students
Everyone, regardless of vaccination status, previous infection, or lack of symptoms.	• **Stay home** for at least 5 days after start of symptoms (or after date of first positive test if no symptoms). • 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. • 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. • If fever is present, isolation should be continued until 24 hours after fever resolves. • 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. • Per CDPH masking guidance, infected persons should wear a well-fitting mask around others for a total of 10 days, especially in indoor settings. *Antigen test required.

How to Count Five Days for Isolation

How to Count Five Days for Isolation

If you develop **symptoms** after testing positive	Your 5-day isolation period should start over. Day 0 is your first day of symptoms. Follow the recommendations above for ending isolation.
If you had COVID-19 and had **symptoms**	Isolate for at least 5 days. To calculate your 5-day isolation period, day 0 is your first day of symptoms. Day 1 is the first full day after your symptoms developed. You can leave isolation after 5 full days.
If you test positive for COVID-19 and never develop **symptoms**	Isolate for at least 5 days. Day 0 is the day of your positive viral test (based on the date you were tested) and day 1 is the first full day after the specimen was collected for your positive test. You can leave isolation after 5 full days.

Source: **CDC**

Please note: Individuals must test negative after day 5 to return before day 11.

Understanding the Infectious Period

- For symptomatic infected persons, the infectious period is 2 days before the onset of symptoms through Day 10 after symptoms first appeared (or through days 5-10 if test is negative on day 5 or later), and 24 hours have passed with no fever, without use of fever-reducing medications and symptoms have improved, **OR**

- For asymptomatic infected persons, the infectious period is 2 days before the positive specimen collection date through Day 10 after the positive specimen collection date (or through days 5-10 if test is negative on day 5 or later), after specimen collection date for their first positive COVID-19 test.

For the purpose of identifying close contacts and exposures, infected personal who test negative on or after day 5 can end isolation and, in accordance with the guidance, are no longer considered to be within their infectious period.

Definitions

Fully vaccinated: two weeks have passed since individual received their final dose of COVID-19 vaccine.

Close Contact: anyone who was within 0-6 feet of a Case for more than 15 minutes over a 24-hour period.

Response Testing and Quarantine

Testing and Quarantine of Close Contacts

Serra will follow the CDPH's guidance for schools on response testing and quarantine, which include the following:

- Individuals should get tested if experiencing **COVID-19 symptoms**.
- Individuals who test positive for COVID-19 should follow CDPH and local health department guidance regarding isolation and/or exclusion from high risk settings (See Isolation Table above).
- Students, teachers and staff with no COVID-19 symptoms and regardless of vaccination status, do not need to quarantine, but should get tested 3 to 5 days after an exposure to someone with COVID-19 and wear a well-fitting mask around others for a total of 10 days, especially in indoor settings and when near those at high risk for severe COVID-19 disease.

Tests to Assess Status during Quarantine or to Exit Quarantine

- Any FDA-approved diagnostic test is acceptable for evaluation of an individual's COVID-19 status. This includes antigen diagnostic tests. Rapid antigen testing or "home tests" are preferred, but not required. See the CDPH school testing resources for more information.
- Collection of diagnostic specimens from asymptomatic persons during quarantine may occur in schools, healthcare settings, or other locations supervised by school or healthcare personnel. Specimens may be processed at the point of care (POC) or in a laboratory.

Group Tracing and Notification for Exposed Students

On January 12, 2022, the CDPH updated its guidance to allow schools the option to do group tracing. Therefore, Serra will notify students who spent more than a cumulative total of 15 minutes (within a 24-hour time period) in a shared indoor airspace (e.g., classroom) with someone with COVID-19 during their period of infectiousness.

- Notifications will be made for "groups" of exposed students (e.g., classmates, teammates, etc.) rather than contact tracing to identify individual close contacts.
- Notifications will be provided to all individuals considered exposed, including those who are vaccinated and/or recently infected.
- Notifications will be posted daily on the school's website and in the *Padre Week Ahead.*

Exposed students, regardless of COVID-19 vaccination status or prior infection, should get tested for COVID-19 with at least one diagnostic test obtained within 3-5 days after last exposure.

- Any FDA-approved antigen diagnostic test, PCR diagnostic test, or pooled PCR test is acceptable for evaluation of an individual's COVID-19 status. For individuals who have been recently infected (within the past 90 days), antigen testing is strongly recommended as PCR results may remain persistently positive and not be indicative of a new active infection. Repeat antigen testing and/or confirmatory molecular testing should be considered for individuals who receive a negative result with an antigen test but have symptoms specific for COVID-19 (such as loss of taste and smell).

- Exposed students who participate in testing may continue to take part in all aspects of their schooling, including sports and extracurricular activities, unless they develop symptoms or test positive for COVID-19. They should test, report positive test results to covid@serrahs.com, and follow other components of this guidance, including wearing a face mask as directed.

COVID-19 Student Exposure (CDPH)

Asymptomatic Persons Who Are Exposed to Someone with COVID-19 (No Quarantine)	Recommended Actions
Everyone, regardless of vaccination status. With the new variants, SMCH is finding people are being reinfected within a few weeks of having COVID-19 and now recommends that schools test exposed individuals even if they had COVID-19 during the last 90 days.	• Test within 3-5 days after last exposure. • 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). • Strongly encouraged to get vaccinated or boosted. • If symptoms develop, test and stay home (see earlier section on symptomatic persons), and • If test result is positive, follow isolation recommendations in the **Isolation table**.

Case Reporting and Contact Tracing

Schools are required to report cases of communicable diseases, including COVID-19, to the local health agency per California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 17, Section 2508. The COVID-19 Point Persons for the Serra community are Assistant Principal: Student Life Marybeth Ortiz and Covid Coordinator Matt Viñal.

Serra will follow this protocol when there is one or more confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the school community:

- Serra's COVID-19 Point Person will report all COVID-19 cases and clusters of undiagnosed respiratory illness to SMCH as soon as practicable (within 24 hours) using the School and Shared Portal for Outbreak Tracking (SPOT), California's case reporting system.
- The Serra COVID-19 Point Person will collect data and complete a daily report for all new cases (a line list) and submit it via secure email daily by 10:00 a.m.

Serra will comply with the notice obligations set out in US Senate Bills 586 and 685, ensuring that staff and families will receive prompt notifications of exposures and closures, while also maintaining confidentiality.

School staff will receive training regarding COVID-19 reporting protocols in the event they receive a positive test result.

Serra will maintain accurate records and track all COVID-19 cases, while ensuring medical information remains confidential. These records must be made available to employees, authorized employee representatives, or as otherwise required by law, with personal identifying information removed.

Per Cal/OSHA guidance, Serra will provide written notice within one day of learning of a case to people at the school site who may have been exposed to COVID-19.

Outbreaks

In the case of an outbreak, Serra will follow these protocols:

- Provide written notice of a school site outbreak (three or more cases in an exposed workgroup in a 14-day period) and major outbreaks (20 or more cases within a 30-day period).
- During any outbreak, masks are required regardless of vaccination status both indoors and outdoors when individuals are less than six feet from another person.
- During major outbreaks, six-feet physical distancing is required where feasible, both indoors and outdoors.