



2022-23 Learning & Safety Plan

Please note- the information in this plan can change frequently, will be updated as quickly as possible, and will take time to update after guidelines with the state change. This plan is NOT exhaustive.

Updated 09/19/22





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Health & Safety Protocols

Supplies, & Protective Equipment

The health and safety of our students, staff, and families are of paramount importance. This document is intended to provide you with information on current guidance from public health officials and state agencies. This plan will be updated as we strive to continually implement current best practices and guidelines.

SUPPLIES, & PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

The following items have been sent to schools based on student enrollment and staff numbers:

- For employees: A selection, as available, of masks and face shields, will be provided.
- For students: Masks will be provided on an “as needed” basis with the preference that parents provide a mask that best suits their child and follows guidelines (see pg. 6)
- Schools have been provided:
 - Hand washing supplies
 - Hand sanitizer (hand sanitizer will be fragrance-free and contain at least 60% ethyl alcohol)
 - Cleaning & disinfecting supplies in every room
 - Masks as needed; however, we ask that students bring their own

Masks

Following the California Department of Public Health's (CDPH) guidance, masks are now strongly recommended for students and staff while indoors at all VUSD school sites regardless of vaccine status. Students and staff who choose to wear a mask should do so over the mouth and nose.

Masks will be required in the health offices, CARE areas, and COVID Testing locations. There will be circumstances when masking may still be required within VUSD for designated periods of time for staff and/or students.

Volunteers

Volunteers are an important and appreciated contribution to our school communities. Parents and other members of the community are encouraged to share their special knowledge and abilities with our students. Volunteers are not regular employees performing work within their classification, nor are they used in lieu of a regular employee. There are two types of volunteers.

Type 1- "Limited Basis Volunteers" who volunteer for a single event or less than 4 hours per month. These volunteers do have a set of requirements they must adhere to in order to volunteer, including agreeing to follow current masking requirements. Fingerprints are not required for this type of volunteer.

Type 2- "Regular, Ongoing Volunteer OR Overnight Chaperones" who volunteer on a more frequent basis (4 or more hours per month) and/or serve as an overnight chaperone must adhere to the above requirements and additional requirements such as submitting to a fingerprint clearance through the Department of Justice and the FBI.

For a full understanding of requirements, to review our volunteer handbook, and to view more information on our volunteer program visit, www.venturausd.org.

SCREENING AT HOME

- Families are required to monitor children for symptoms before going to school.
- Staff members are required to complete a wellness check prior to beginning work.
- If staff or students are experiencing symptoms, they should stay home and test.

OTHER SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS

- School sites will follow guidelines developed by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) for cleaning, disinfection, and ventilation of school campuses.
- Common touch surfaces will be cleaned regularly (i.e., countertops, door handles, restrooms, student desks, student chairs).
- Staff and students will be expected to wash/sanitize their hands regularly.

HANDWASHING

Handwashing is strongly encouraged as one of the most effective ways to prevent the spread of any biological pathogen, including COVID-19:

- All persons will be encouraged to wash their hands or to use hand sanitizer before arrival.
- A sink and/or hand sanitizer will be available in each classroom
- Students will be instructed by teachers and support staff daily and through posted signage to wash their hands.
- Staff will teach and remind students to sneeze and cough into a cloth or tissue or, if not available, into one's elbow and to wash their hands or use sanitizer immediately after.
- Students will be encouraged to wash their hands before and after playing outside and/or eating.
- Students will be reminded to wash their hands before and after using the restroom.

RESTROOMS

Restrooms will be open and available.

- All persons will be encouraged to wash their hands or to use hand sanitizer after use.
- Soap and water are available in all restrooms, which are stocked daily, along with paper towels.
- Bathrooms are considered a high-touch area and will be cleaned nightly and throughout the day as practical.



Daily Screenings- Questions

VUSD will be utilizing passive screening of staff and students. This means that screening will occur at home before coming to school for all grade levels. Please use this form as a reference (no need to turn the paper form in).

☐

In the last 14 days, has your child or anyone in your household had close contact with someone who has or is suspected of having COVID-19?

_____ Yes

_____ No

☐

In the last 48 hours, has your child experienced any of the following symptoms:

Fever (any temperature at or above 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit)

Congestion/runny nose

Headache

Cough

Sore throat

Difficulty breathing

Fatigue/muscle or body aches

Loss of taste or smell

Gastrointestinal symptoms (nausea, vomiting or diarrhea)

_____ Yes

_____ No

If you answered yes to any of the above questions, please do not send your child to school and call the front office for further instructions. Please stay home and test.



Facility Ventilation, Cleaning & Disinfecting

INDOOR AIR QUALITY

Indoor air quality is essential to providing a safe and comfortable teaching and learning environment for students and staff. Measures to improve indoor air quality include:

- Air dilution will be increased by keeping windows and doors open, and HVAC fresh air intake maximized to the extent that occupant health considerations are not negatively impacted.
- Air filters are being used at all locations with the proper factory-rated filter for each HVAC unit where the HVAC equipment specifications and operating capacities allow. They are being changed four times a year.
- Systems are being scheduled to run more than normal to allow for more air exchange per day.
- All air systems are running 12 hours a day to ensure ventilation in all rooms. Automatic timers are being used to make sure that the systems are running and thermostats are being set.
- All ventilation systems for elementary standard classrooms have individual air condition and/or heating systems. These systems are self-contained and not shared with other spaces.

FACILITY CLEANING PROTOCOLS

The safety of students and staff at Ventura Unified School District is our top priority. Cleaning logs have been set up in each room and signed after each cleaning. The steps outlined below will also be followed:

- High-touch classroom surfaces will be cleaned nightly, such as desks, door handles, light switches, etc.
- Non-classroom high-touch surfaces will be cleaned nightly, including:
 - bathrooms
 - kitchens
 - teacher lounges
 - hydration stations (where students can fill up water bottles- usually in the cafeteria)
- A disinfectant with an EPA registration number that is approved as effective against the COVID-19 virus will be applied in accordance with the manufacturer's instruction, allowing for the appropriate contact time.



COVID-19 Mitigation, Positive Cases & Close Contact

STUDENTS WHO TEST POSITIVE OR ARE A CLOSE CONTACT

If a student tests positive or is a close contact with someone who tests positive, they should contact the school's front office and ask for the site's Health Office to report. If the student is also an athlete, it is recommended they also notify their head coach.

HOW TO SUBMIT COVID-19 HOME TEST RESULTS

Please go to our COVID-19 Resources webpage for information on how to submit the results from your at-home COVID-19 Test. <https://www.venturausd.org/about/communications/covid-19-resources>.

PLAN FOR HANDLING SICK PERSONS

- At each school, a CARE Area (COVID Appraisal, Response, & Evaluation Room) will be equipped with appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE). All ill individuals with potential COVID-19 symptoms will be evaluated in this room.
- Students and staff that present to the school health staff with a fever of 100.4 Fahrenheit or above, a cough and/or shortness of breath, and/or gastrointestinal illness will be considered a suspect COVID-19 case and referred for testing. If staff/student tests, they should not return to the school before they have results.
- VUSD COVID-19 Testing Clinics are available each school day for students, staff, and approved VUSD volunteers with same-day results.
- Only a small percentage of students and staff who have COVID-19 infection will fit the above description. VUSD nurses and health technicians will identify any additional suspect cases to refer for testing.
- As supplies allow, over-the-counter tests will be available for students and staff at school site health offices.

ISOLATION RECOMMENDATIONS

Information on how and when to isolate if you are sick or a close contact can be found on our COVID-19 Resources webpage, <https://www.venturausd.org/about/communications/covid-19-resources>. This webpage will be updated as often as possible.

Monkeypox

A number of families have asked about Monkeypox and how the District will be addressing it. As always, we take the lead from the Ventura County Public Health Department and they have not shared any concerns/information with the Ventura Unified School District with regards to our students. If you would like more information on Monkeypox including symptoms, information on how it spreads, and prevention methods, please view the Ventura County Health Care Agency website at <https://vchca.org/monkeypox>.

Tables with Updated Isolation and Quarantine Guidance from Cal/OSHA re: COVID-19



California Department of Industrial Relations
Division of Occupational Safety & Health

Table 1: Exclusion Requirements for Employees Who Test Positive for COVID-19

Requirements apply to all employees, regardless of vaccination status, previous infection, or lack of symptoms.	• Employees who test positive for COVID-19 must be excluded from the workplace for at least 5 days after start of symptoms or after date of first positive test if no symptoms. • Isolation can end and employees may return to the workplace after day 5 if symptoms are not present or are resolving, and a diagnostic specimen* collected on day 5 or later tests negative. • If an employee's test on day 5 (or later) is positive, isolation can end and the employee may return to the workplace after day 10 if they are fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications. • If an employee is unable to or choosing not to testⁱ, isolation can end, and the employee may return to the workplace after day 10 if they are fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications. • If an employee has a feverⁱⁱ, isolation must continue and the employee may not return to work until 24 hours after the fever resolves without the use of fever-reducing medications.ⁱⁱⁱ • If an employee's symptoms other than fever are not resolving, they may not return to work until their symptoms are resolving or until after day 10. • Employees must wear face coverings around others for a total of 10 days. Please refer the FAQs regarding face coverings for additional information *Antigen test preferred
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ⁱ An employer may require a test. More information is available in the [Department of Fair Employment and Housing FAQ](#).

ⁱⁱ A fever is a measured body temperature of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher.

ⁱⁱⁱ A fever resolves when 24 hours have passed with no fever, without the use of fever-reducing medications.

Tables with Updated Isolation and Quarantine Guidance from Cal/OSHA re: COVID-19 Cont.

Table 2: CDPH Guidance for Close Contacts – Employees Who Are Exposed to Someone with COVID-19. (Applies to All Employees Except those in High-Risk Settings)

For employees who are asymptomatic. Applies to all employees, regardless of vaccination status.	- Exposed employees must test within three to five days after their last close contact. Persons infected within the prior 90 days do not need to be tested unless symptoms develop. - Employees must wear face coverings around others for a total of 10 days after exposure. Please refer to the FAQs on face coverings for additional information. - If an exposed employee tests positive for COVID- 19, they must follow the isolation requirements above in Table 1. - Employees are strongly encouraged to get vaccinated and boosted
For employees who are symptomatic. Applies to all employees, regardless of vaccination status.	- Symptomatic employees must be excluded and test as soon as possible. Exclusion must continue until test results are obtained. - If the employee is unable to test or choosing not to test, exclusion must continue for 10 days. - If the employee tests negative and returns to work earlier than 10 days after the close contact, the employee must wear a face covering around others for 10 days following the close contact. - CDPH recommends continuing exclusion and retesting in 1-2 days if testing negative with an antigen test, particularly if tested during the first 1-2 days of symptoms. - For symptomatic employees who have tested positive within the previous 90 days, using an antigen test is preferred.

In-Person Learning & Schedules

All students will be automatically enrolled in in-person learning for the 2022-23 school year. These schedules can be found online at <https://www.venturausd.org/about/bell-schedules>. If students are quarantined they should contact the school's front office for instructions.

Independent Study (IS)

VUSD is pleased to offer Independent Study (IS) Options for all grade levels:

- Elementary & Middle School - Homestead Independent Study- For more please reach out to the Principal at hector.guerrero@venturausd.org
- Middle School & High School - FLEX (Four or more classes taken online in Edgenuity Online Courseware)-For more information please reach out to your 2022-23 middle/high school counselor
- High School - El Camino High School at Ventura College- For more information, please reach out to tera.shrum@venturausd.org
- Families of students with disabilities who may be considering an Independent Study or Homestead program option should contact their site Principal and request an IEP meeting to discuss this option.

PE & School-Based Extracurricular Activities

- Physical Education (PE)
 - Dressing Out - Students will be required to dress out for PE in locker rooms in the same manner during pre-COVID.
 - Masks - Masks will not be required for outdoor PE activities; masks are strongly recommended for indoor (e.g., gym) PE activities
 - PE Activities - All PE courses can return to typical pre-COVID activities/use of equipment
- School-Based Extracurricular Activities
 - The requirements and recommendations in this guidance apply to all extracurricular activities that are operated or supervised by schools, and all activities that occur on a school site, whether or not they occur during school hours, including, but not limited to, sports, band, chorus, and clubs.
 - Masks are strongly recommended indoors at all times for teachers, referees, officials, coaches, & spectators.
 - Masks are strongly recommended indoors at all times when participants are not actively practicing, conditioning, competing, or performing. Masks are also strongly recommended indoors while on the sidelines, in team meetings, and within locker rooms and weight rooms.
 - When actively practicing, conditioning, performing, or competing indoors, masks are strongly recommended by participants even during heavy exertion, as practicable. Individuals using instruments indoors that cannot be played with a mask (e.g., wind instruments) are strongly recommended to use bell coverings and maintain a minimum of 3 feet of physical distancing between participants.

Athletics

VUSD has returned to full pre-COVID athletics.

- For high school CIF athletics, traditional pre-COVID CIF athletics eligibility requirements apply:
 - All student-athletes must have a 2.0 GPA as determined by the last quarterly marking period
 - For Fall sports season, eligibility will be determined using semester 2 grades from the 2021- school year
 - All student-athletes must ALSO be passing (letter grade of D or higher) a minimum of four classes
 - Eligibility is determined quarterly (both 2.0 GPA and passing 4 classes rules apply) throughout the school year
 - CIF / VUSD allows one-quarter of a GPA (below of 2.0) “Probationary Period” during a student’s high school tenure
 - There is no probationary period for not passing a minimum of four classes

Indoor Athletic Events

Spectators: Currently, we can be at full capacity and masks are strongly recommended at all times (per VCPH).

Coaches and players: It is strongly recommended that masks be worn indoors as tolerated.

Outdoor Athletic Events

Spectators: Currently, we can be at full capacity and masks are recommended.

All Athletic Events

- Visitor locker room access will be available for changing/halftime and masks are strongly recommended.
- Bus transportation to athletic events: We can be at full capacity and masks are strongly recommended.

If you have general questions about high school CIF athletics please contact your school’s Athletic Director

- Buena - Shaun Strole; shaun.strole@venturausd.org
- Foothill Tech - Jamaal Brown; jamaal.brown@venturausd.org
- Ventura - Dave Hess; david.hess@venturuasd.org

For all elementary and middle school athletics inquiries, please contact your school’s principal for more information on offerings.



Meal Distribution

California has passed Universal school meals, which allows our District to offer meals at NO CHARGE for all students. All students may receive one breakfast and one lunch each school day for free if they choose. They may also bring their own snack/lunch. You may access food and nutrition menus and nutritional information on the district website. Though meals are free for all students, we do request that families fill out a free and reduced meal application as funding for other entities is based on these qualifications.

Social Emotional Supports

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING

We are committed to supporting the social emotional well-being of the students we serve. The District will be offering the following to our students during the 2022-23 school year:

- Additional Counselors in Elementary Schools & Social Workers
- Social Emotional Learning (SEL)
- Trauma-Informed Practices
- Behavior Support and Intervention Teams
- Mental Health Resources
- SEL / Mental Health Speaker Series for Students, Staff, and Parents
- Student Assistance Program (SAP) / Wellness Center
- Community Partnerships (Care Solace, Logrando Bienestar, VCBH, etc.)
- Mental Health Committee

MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORTS

The District is committed to providing ongoing mental health support to students through our school psychologists, counselors, Student Assistance Program, and the SAFE Center. More information about these supports is available by visiting <https://www.venturausd.org/services/mental-health-resources> and <https://sites.google.com/venturaedu.org/vusd-school-counselor/home> and by reaching out to your school counselor.

Care Solace - At no cost to families, Care Solace will quickly and confidentially find available mental health and substance use providers matched to your needs. Call 888-515-0595 or visit their website at <https://caresolace.com/site/vusd>.



How VUSD Communicates With You

WEBSITES



Our websites are being updated this year.

Websites are our official form of communication for District and school information, news, and announcements.

Visit the District website at

www.venturausd.org

PARENT PORTAL



ParentConnection

Q Parent Connection is an essential tool for all parents. Information related to grades, attendance, homework assignments, library book status, school cafeteria balances, and more can be found at

<https://qweb.venturausd.org/parentportal>. If you have difficulty logging in, contact your school's front office.

DISTRICT SOCIAL MEDIA



Official social media pages where good news, fun facts, and emergency updates can be found.

District Facebook-www.facebook.com/Venturausd/

District Twitter- @SchoolVentura

District YouTube-

www.youtube.com/venturaunifiedschooldistrict

Contact the front office for school-specific social media accounts.

MASS NOTIFICATION-PARENTSQUARE



School and District parent/guardian and staff communication is delivered via voicemail, text, email, and/or through the mobile app. Be sure you have updated your contact information in Q Parent Connection at <https://qweb.venturausd.org/parentportal>. Download the ParentSquare Mobile App.



SCHOOL SPECIFIC COMMUNICATIONS

Each school and teacher may communicate a bit differently, through flyers, teacher websites, etc. Contact your student's school and teacher for more information.



CANVAS

Teachers may continue to use Canvas to facilitate and/or support their classes. We recommend downloading the Canvas Parent App or you can log into Canvas from a computer.



PEACHJAR

This system (mobile app and email) is a community to VUSD families tool that allows non-profits and businesses to advertise relevant outside programs, events, activities, etc. to our families.