

WARREN-WALKER SCHOOL
Infants through 8th Grade
COVID-19 School Safety Plan - 2022-2023

The Warren-Walker School administration makes informed decisions that honor the safety and wellbeing of our community. Moving forward, we have more tools and information that enable us to safely operate based on strategies that have worked for us with guidance from health experts. We will prioritize in-person learning and reduce the impacts of interruptions on families wherever possible, while still minimizing the risk of COVID-19 to our students, faculty, staff, and overall community. Serious consideration of how each policy and procedure can impact the quality of our program is essential.

**RELYING ON OUR HEALTH AUTHORITIES AND VETTED PROFESSIONALS
TO GUIDE DECISION MAKING**

The information surrounding COVID-19 is constantly evolving, and we very much appreciate how our community has complied with the innumerable amount of mandates and recommendations put forth over the past three years. At this time, the State of California and the County of San Diego are no longer requiring that school employees be vaccinated. Additionally, the guidance requiring weekly testing for unvaccinated employees has been rescinded. While they are no longer mandatory, vaccinations and boosters continue to be strongly encouraged for both children and adults.

Moving forward, we have more tools and information that enable us to safely operate based on strategies that have worked for us with guidance from health experts. We will prioritize in-person learning and reduce the impacts of interruptions on families wherever possible, while still minimizing the risk of COVID-19 to our students, faculty, staff, and overall community. Serious consideration of how each policy and procedure can impact the quality of our program is essential. We rely heavily on best practices shared by state, and county health authorities, as follows:

[California Department of Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools](#)

[K-12 Decision Trees](#)

[State & County Requirements on Masking, Testing & Notifications for San Diego County Schools](#)

[CalOSHA's Emergency Temporary Standards](#)

All required policies will be vetted and approved by WWS's Administrative Team after we also consult a variety of local medical advisors to guide our decision-making process. This ensures we consider all viewpoints of knowledgeable people in our community and utilize their expertise when making decisions that impact our ability to operate.

TRANSPARENCY AND WORKING TOGETHER AS A COMMUNITY

ParentSquare (<https://www.parentsquare.com>) will continue to be our main communication platform for kindergarten through eighth grade students, and use of its Daily Health Screening Form (top-right corner of the home page) for reporting student, faculty, and staff symptom status is required. People with COVID-19 have reported a wide range of symptoms – ranging from mild to severe illness. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. (For the Early Learning Center, Prekindergarten and Junior Kindergarten, it may be accessed and completed in BrightWheel.)

Daily follow up by the Deans and/or Directors on the results and symptoms present will determine whether the person may attend school or not. With mild symptoms, no fever, and a negative antigen test, it may be determined that he/she is allowed to attend by wearing a mask. We aim to educate and communicate with clarity and strive for honesty and transparency, valuing the wellness and support of everyone in our community, and also allow school attendance when mild symptoms are present, or exposure has occurred, by using readily available and reasonable protection, such as masks. As always, we rely on our partnership with students, families, staff and parents to help create a safe and nurturing in-person environment. At-home antigen testing will help us accomplish this and keep students, faculty, and staff in school.

RETURN TO SCHOOL TESTING PROTOCOLS

Depending on case rates and other factors, parents may be asked to administer home rapid antigen tests after a long break. If the results are negative, the students may come to school. Anyone with a COVID-19 positive test result is required to STAY HOME and parents should contact your campus Dean/Director for further instructions. If your child exhibits notable COVID-19-like symptoms, please keep him/her home until symptoms have waned and there has been NO FEVER for at least 24 hours, at which time administering an at-home is highly recommended, and students may return with a negative result. Keeping symptomatic and COVID-positive individuals off of campus will help keep our campus and community healthy.

COVID-19 VACCINATION POLICY

Health authorities continue to strongly encourage that students and school employees be vaccinated. We will keep parents informed and do not plan to implement any vaccine requirements over and above what is required by the State and/or County. Everyone 6 months of age and older is now eligible to get a COVID-19 vaccination. Everyone ages 5 and older is eligible for a booster shot. To answer any medical questions please speak with your medical provider.

QUARANTINE, CLOSE CONTACTS AND ISOLATION

Quarantine, close contact, and isolation are all well-defined and procedures are clearly stated on the SDCOE Decision Trees. Any child with a positive test result must stay home and a parent should contact the Dean or Director by calling the office (PL: 619-223-3663, MS: 619-260-3663; LM: 619-460-3663; ELC: 619-771-3663). This same procedure should be used throughout the year. We have a generous supply of at-home antigen test kits on our campuses, and will re-supply whenever

possible. Also, you may acquire more for your family through your employer's insurance plan. Please keep a supply on hand at home, as well.

The School is required to isolate students who develop symptoms at school. However, with mild symptoms, no fever, and a negative test result, the child may be allowed to put on a mask and go back to class. In this case, the parent would be called and asked if an antigen test could be administered.

Close contact or exposure guidelines have been revised to reflect the CDPH's current definition which is "a person who - for 15 minutes or more over a 24 hour time frame - shared a common indoor airspace with a person who was contagious with COVID-19." Students who have been exposed in this way, but have a negative test result and no symptoms may stay in class for 5 days wearing a mask while continuing to test.

MASK WEARING

Masking is no longer required indoors or outdoors in childcare or school settings for day-to-day operations. This guidance applies to Infants through 8th grade children, faculty, and staff. However, CDPH still strongly recommends that masking be used indoors, especially in times of high transmission in the community. Also, WWS requires students who have tested positive for COVID-19 to isolate at home for at least five days. At the direction of the Dean or Director, they may return to school when residual symptoms are resolving and they have had NO fever for at least 24 hours. In these cases, masking will be required from Day 6 through 10. Masks, especially those that offer the best fit and filtration (e.g. N95s, KN95s, KF94s, surgical), remain a component of our multi-level approach for protection against COVID-19 infection, and students need to have a mask with them daily. The School will keep a supply on hand.

ONGOING UPDATES

This guidance will be updated as new public health guidelines are published. We will do our best to maintain health and wellbeing on our campuses without unnecessary requirements for our students, faculty, staff, or parents. Entering our fourth year of COVID messaging is not easy for any of us. Hang in there as we continue to return to the well-honed educational experience that is known as the Warren-Walker Way! GO GULLS! Take care and stay well!

Best regards,
Pamela L. Volker, M.Ed. Headmistress