



# LINCOLN UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

## COVID-19 SAFETY PLAN

### 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR

This plan is based on updated guidance from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and is subject to change. Updates will be made based on the latest information available.

## **INTRODUCTION:**

This plan documents the many ways in which we will continue to operate schools in a safe manner for all this school year. The Governor's Safe Schools for All hub and the California Department of Public Health's school guidance continue to provide detailed recommendations. Subsequent updates will be referenced as they become available. The State's California SMARTER plan continues to outline the next phase of California's COVID-19 response.

This document is designed to provide information and assistance to staff, students, and families around lingering issues related to COVID-19. We will continue to consider guidance received and regularly updated by the San Joaquin County Public Health Services, the San Joaquin County Office of Education, the California Department of Public Health and CalOSHA.

## **INSTRUCTIONAL MODELS AND PROGRAMS:**

All of our schools will provide in-person learning for all students. Students will attend in-person, all together, for a full instructional day.

Independent Study is no longer available as an alternative option for families to choose.

## **MITIGATION STRATEGIES:**

### **STAYING UP TO DATE ON VACCINATIONS:**

It is strongly recommended by the California Department of Public Health that all persons eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine or a booster do so at the first opportunity. Additionally, it is recommended that all families and schools assure that students are up to date on other statutory vaccine requirements.

### **OPTIMIZING INDOOR AIR QUALITY:**

Effective ventilation and filtration can curb the spread of COVID-19 and other infectious diseases. We will continue to follow CDPH recommendations to improve indoor air quality and confer with local health officials when air quality is poor.

Alternatives to fresh air include maximizing central air filtration for HVAC systems and utilizing high efficiency filters. Air filters and filtration systems will be replaced and checked on a regular schedule to ensure optimal air quality.

We have portable high-efficiency air purifiers in all classrooms and large meeting spaces.

### **USING FACE MASKS:**

Masks have been identified as one of the most effective and simplest safety mitigation layers to prevent in-school transmission of COVID-19 and other respiratory pathogens. No person may be prevented from wearing a mask as a condition of participation in an activity or school, unless wearing a mask would pose a safety hazard. Disposable masks will continue to be available for all as needed or when requested, including N95 masks if desired.

### **GETTING TESTED FOR COVID-19:**

Testing remains a key mitigation strategy to detect and curb transmission of COVID-19. Antigen tests are considered the primary option for detecting COVID-19 in schools. It is recommended that students

and staff get tested for COVID-19 prior to returning from major school breaks. Antigen kits are available at school sites upon request.

#### MAINTAINING CLEAN HANDS:

Hand hygiene can prevent the spread of infectious diseases, including COVID-19. Healthy hygiene practices such as washing hands, using hand sanitizer, avoiding contact with one's eyes, nose and mouth, and covering coughs and sneezes are widely recommended to reduce risk of infection and spread of disease. In order to support these practices, students will be taught routines and reminded to engage in these behaviors. Staff will be expected to model these behaviors for students as well as implementing them themselves.

All classrooms are equipped with either a sink and liquid hand soap and touchless paper towel dispensers, or wall-mounted hand sanitizer pumps. All restrooms are equipped with liquid hand soap and touchless paper towel dispensers. An inventory of supplies is on hand and will be closely monitored to assure ready access.

#### MANAGING INDIVIDUALS WITH SYMPTOMS:

Staying home when sick, can lower the risk of spreading infectious diseases, including COVID-19. All staff members and students should self-screen for symptoms each day. Any person with unexplained symptoms (i.e. known allergies), should stay home and not return to school or work until symptoms have resolved or been determined to be the result of a non-infectious cause.

#### MANAGING STUDENTS DIAGNOSED WITH COVID-19:

Students diagnosed with COVID-19 should follow CDPH recommendations, including staying home for at least 5 days and wearing a well-fitting mask around others for a total of 10 days, especially in indoor settings.

- Isolation can end after Day 5 if symptoms are no longer present or are mild and improving and 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.

#### MANAGING STUDENTS EXPOSED TO COVID-19:

Prompt notification to students and families regarding exposure to infectious diseases, including COVID-19, can allow for rapid testing, early treatment, and prevention of further spread. Families should notify their child's school if their child has COVID-19 and was on school grounds during their infectious period. Schools will notify families of students who may have been exposed to COVID-19 at school. Schools may provide either individual notification if specific exposure is known or limited; or provide general notification to a large group (such as a grade level or classroom) if specific exposure cannot be determined. Everyone who has been exposed, regardless of vaccination status should:

- Test within 3-5 days after last exposure
- Wear a well-fitting mask around others for a total of 10 days, especially in indoor settings
- If symptoms develop, test and stay home and if test result is positive, follow isolation recommendations above

- Persons infected and COVID-19 positive within the prior 90 days do not need to be tested, quarantined, or excluded from work unless symptoms develop

#### MANAGING COVID-19 OUTBREAKS:

The district will contact San Joaquin County Public Health Services for guidance and support in the event of any suspected or confirmed outbreaks in any of our schools or work locations.

#### CLEANING FACILITIES:

A safe environment for staff and students is a top priority. All schools are regularly cleaned, and we will continue to adhere to all necessary safety precautions.

The use of reusable water bottles will be encouraged. Bottle filling stations are available to all students and staff at all sites. Refillable water bottles may be available at sites upon request. Drinking fountains are open as well.

#### ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS:

Outdoor spaces for learning will continue to be available, where practicable and weather permitting.

Outdoor tables and shade structures remain in place at all school sites to support outdoor eating and classroom activities.

Yard duty supervisors will be equipped with first aid kits and hand sanitizer.

All staff have been trained using Keenan training videos.

Notification of positive cases will be provided per guidance from SJCPHS, AB 685 and SB 1159. Privacy rights and confidentiality will be highly regarded throughout the notification process. SJCPHS has procedures in place for investigating communicable disease cases, including COVID-19. Contact tracing, when necessary, will be conducted using information obtained from school personnel, through interviews and in coordination with school officials. Communication regarding positive cases will vary depending on the specific nature of the case(s) within a school community or work site.

Should a person become ill at a school or work site, the staff person or teacher should contact the site administrator for guidance. Staff members will be provided guidance for next steps from their site administrator, which may include a recommendation to leave the school site once their classroom can be covered. A school nurse, RN or LVN will be contacted to assess students who may be experiencing symptoms related to COVID-19. Face coverings will be required throughout the process. Arrangements will be made for the student to be picked up or transported for further medical attention. If the status of the person is serious, 911 will be called without delay. Guidance will be provided about follow up and when and under what circumstances a once ill person may return to work or school.

Each school site will continue to have dedicated nursing staff from our Health Services Department. They will provide guidance regarding isolation and quarantine, including duration and plans for follow-up. They will communicate regularly with site administration.

The district will continue to utilize a dedicated email address for all questions and concerns related to COVID-19. The email is read daily by staff, trained in district protocols and requirements. Regular contact with the Superintendent and Cabinet is ongoing. Cases are reviewed regularly.