

SANTA ROSA CITY SCHOOLS
COVID-19 Safety Plan
School Year 2022-2023
(Revised December 14, 2022)

Santa Rosa City Schools (SRCS) has adopted the measures outlined in this document to support safe, in-person learning in K–12 schools and mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Disease management strategies in K–12 schools are guided by the principle that safe, in-person learning is critical to student well-being and development. These measures have been established with guidance of the Sonoma County Department of Health Services and in alignment with the California Department of Public Health [Testing Framework for K-12 Schools for the 2022-2023 School Year](#).

Responsibility (program administrator)

The SCRS COVID Safety Plan is implemented under the direction of **Jon Jones - SRCS COVID Coordinator**, (email: jjones@srcs.k12.ca.us / phone: 707-890-3800 x80329), serving as the point-of-contact with the State of California Testing Task Force, Sonoma County Department of Health Services, and other relevant agencies, under the supervision of **Superintendent Anna Trunnell**, as directed by the SRCS Board of Education.

ID and Evaluation of COVID-19 hazards

COVID-19 is spread mainly between people who are in close contact with one another (typically within about 6 feet) through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, speaks, or sneezes. An individual may become infectious anywhere from 2-14 days after exposure, and often may be infectious before the onset of symptoms.

The risk of getting COVID-19 is greater in indoor settings with poor air quality, lack of conscientiousness in shared space, cough/sneeze etiquette, or masking protocols, lack of convenient access to appropriate sanitization and hand hygiene supplies, and when in close proximity to others (for extended durations) with potentially infectious status.

COVID-19 presence is most often typified through symptomatic presentation including any or all of the following;

- Fever (100.4 or greater)
- Dry cough
- Sore throat
- Shortness of breath
- Possible loss of taste or smell
- Headache
- Nausea, vomiting or diarrhea

- New onset of runny nose
- Muscle or body aches
- Fatigue or lethargy

SRCS personnel, students, and families are informed to be mindful of these symptomatic indicators along with detailed responsive measures. As these symptoms may also be indicative of an alternate diagnosis, confirmatory testing is recommended to help make a determination as to COVID status. Recognizing that infectious status may also be absent symptomatic indicators, routine testing is recommended, especially for close contacts of suspected infectious persons.

Correction of COVID-19 Hazards

According to the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), [COVID-19 is here to stay](#), but we have learned methods and gained tools to decrease its impact on our health and well-being. California's schools can manage this disease in sustainable and adaptive manners. In alignment with the state's SMARTER plan, California will continue to provide resources—including COVID-19 tests and personal protective equipment—to support these goals and prevent broad disruption to in-person learning.

California affirms the authority of local health departments and local educational agencies to maintain or establish additional guidance, including required actions, for K–12 school settings in their respective jurisdictions. When making a determination of whether additional measures are warranted to mitigate in-school transmission of COVID-19, CDPH recommends local health and education officials confer and review this guidance, relevant local considerations, and CDC guidance.

In workplaces, employers are subject to the Cal/OSHA COVID-19 Emergency Temporary Standards (ETS) or in some workplaces the Cal/OSHA Aerosol Transmissible Diseases Standard, and should consult those regulations for additional applicable requirements.

When applying this guidance, consideration should be given to the direct school population and the surrounding community. Factors include:

- CDC community level indicators of COVID-19 and their trajectory;
- COVID-19 vaccination coverage in the community and among students, teachers, and staff;
- local COVID-19 outbreaks or transmission patterns;
- indoor air quality at relevant facilities;
- availability and accessibility of resources, including masks and tests;
- ability to provide therapeutics in a timely and equitable manner as they become available;
- equity considerations, including populations disproportionately impacted by and exposed to COVID-19;

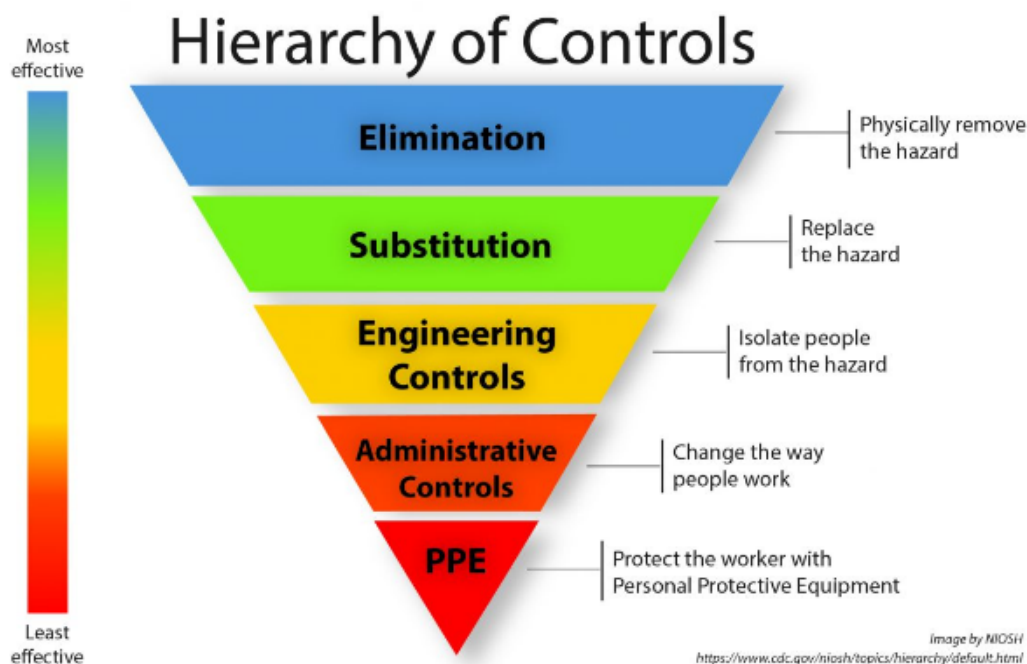
- local demographics, including serving specialized populations of individuals at high risk of severe disease and immunocompromised populations; and
- community input, including from students, families, and staff.

Additionally, CDPH notes that many of the strategies used to address COVID-19 can protect school communities from other diseases and support healthy learning environments. In alignment with the CDC, California schools should consider the approaches described in this document as potential methods to also safeguard students and staff from other airborne pathogens, allergens, and pollutants (e.g., wildfire smoke).

Control of COVID-19 Hazards (Mitigation Strategies)

Maintaining a safe workplace requires a combination of controls as demonstrated through NIOSH's hierarchy of controls.

<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/hierarchy/default.html>



Where possible or recommended, limit shared use of workspaces (desks, offices, and cubicles) and work items (phones, computers, other work tools, and equipment).

- Employees are recommended to be mindful of commonly touched objects and surfaces they contact such as copy machine touch pads, intrusion alarms, water dispenser controls, communal kitchen appliances, faucet controls, door handles, etc. for potential contamination or spreading of the COVID-19 virus. These items and surfaces should be routinely cleaned or disinfected, including:
 - Using disinfectants that are EPA-approved for use against the virus that causes COVID-19.
 - Providing EPA-registered disposable wipes for employees to wipe down commonly used surfaces after use.
 - Following the manufacturer's instructions for all cleaning and disinfection practices.

SRCS supplies staff with face coverings/masks. Disposable masks are available for essential visitors/vendors if necessary. Impermeable disposable gloves, disinfectant wipes, and hand sanitizers are also readily available to SRCS staff. SRCS will replace face coverings and disposable gloves, as necessary.

Signage is to be posted throughout the offices and employee work spaces regarding hand washing, social distancing, cleaning, and disinfecting.

Staying Up to Date on Vaccinations:

Vaccinations prevent illness by working with the body's natural defenses to help safely develop immunity to disease. Not only do vaccinations provide individual-level protection, but high vaccination coverage reduces the burden of disease in schools and communities and may help protect individuals who are not vaccinated or those who may not develop a strong immune response from vaccination.

Recommended Actions:

- a. California strongly recommends that all eligible individuals get vaccinated against COVID-19 and remain up-to-date to protect oneself and reduce transmission of the virus.
- b. Additionally, children have fallen behind on receiving other vaccines over the course of pandemic, placing them and their communities at increased risk of falling ill from other vaccine-preventable illnesses. Schools should review statutory requirements for vaccination requirements for entry into K–12 schools and visit Shots for School for information.

Optimizing Indoor Air Quality:

The risk of getting COVID-19 is greater in indoor settings with poor air quality. Effective ventilation and filtration can curb the spread of COVID-19 and other infectious diseases. It may

also protect students and staff from exposure to wildfire smoke and other airborne allergens and pollutants.

Recommended Actions:

- a. Follow CDPH recommendations to improve indoor air quality to mitigate against COVID-19 in K–12 schools. Facility maintenance staff may also review technical considerations (PDF).
- b. In circumstances where outdoor air quality is poor (such as from wildfire smoke), schools are encouraged to confer with local health officials to determine the best approach forward. Considerations include access to the following:
 - air filtration strategies that do not rely on outdoor air sources (e.g., portable air cleaners);
 - higher quality facemasks (e.g., N95, KN95, or KF94 respirators);
 - alternative spaces with better air quality to host in-person learning
 - alternative ways to commute to/from school; and
 - local COVID-19 epidemiologic factors (i.e., vaccination coverage status, community case rates).

For more information, see resources and guidance from the California Department of Education and the California Air Resources Board.

Using Facemasks:

Masks, particularly high-quality and well-fitting masks (PDF), remain highly effective, inexpensive, and dynamic tools to protect oneself and mitigate transmission of COVID-19 and other respiratory pathogens.

Required Actions:

- a. No person can be prevented from wearing a mask as a condition of participation in an activity or entry into a school, unless wearing a mask would pose a safety hazard (e.g., watersports).
- b. Schools must develop and implement local protocols to provide masks to students who inadvertently fail to bring a face covering to school and desire to use one.

Recommended Actions:

- a. Unless otherwise directed by local health departments or local educational agencies, students and staff should follow CDPH masking guidance for the general public, as well as masking guidance for specific situations referenced below (e.g., when having symptoms, being infected, or exposed).

Getting Tested for COVID-19:

Testing remains a key mitigation layer to detect and curb transmission of COVID-19. Schools are encouraged to ensure access to COVID-19 testing for students and staff, particularly for vulnerable communities. Schools should review support and resources offered by the California COVID-19 Testing Task Force, as well as those available through healthcare insurers, local, and federal sources.

Recommended Actions:

- a. CDPH recommends that antigen tests be considered the primary option for detecting COVID-19 in schools, compared to PCR tests. For more information, see the Testing Framework for K–12 Schools.
- b. Due to the increased travel and social interactions that often occur during school-breaks, it is recommended that students and staff get tested for COVID-19 prior to returning to school following major breaks (e.g., summer, winter, spring).
- c. Additional testing recommendations are referenced in relevant sections below.

Maintaining Clean Hands:

Hand hygiene can prevent the spread of infectious diseases, including COVID-19.

Recommended Actions:

- a. Schools should teach and reinforce proper handwashing to lower the risk of spreading viruses, including the virus that causes COVID-19.
- b. Schools should ensure adequate supplies to support hand hygiene behaviors, including soap, tissues, no-touch trashcans, and hand sanitizers with at least 60 percent alcohol for staff and children who can safely use hand sanitizer. Hand sanitizers should be stored up, away, and out of sight of younger children and should be used only with adult supervision for children ages 5 years and younger.
- c. Schools should teach and reinforce covering coughs and sneezes to help keep individuals from getting and spreading infectious diseases, including COVID-19.

Managing Individuals with Symptoms:

Staying home when sick can lower the risk of spreading infectious diseases, including COVID-19, to other people.

Required Actions:

- a. California requires employers to provide COVID-19 supplemental paid sick leave for most workers through December 31, 2022. This includes circumstances

in which workers are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 and seeking a medical diagnosis, attending a vaccine appointment for themselves or for a family member, and/or if a worker's child is isolating due to COVID-19 infection.

Recommended Actions:

- a. K-12 schools are encouraged to develop standard criteria for managing students who develop symptoms of infectious diseases, including COVID-19. In most situations, any student who develops new, unexplained symptoms should not return to campus until it is clear that symptoms are mild and improving or are due to a non-infectious cause (e.g., allergies). This includes waiting until 24 hours have passed since resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications.
- b. Additionally, if symptoms are concerning for COVID-19, it is strongly recommended that students wear a mask and get tested immediately. Students should also follow CDPH recommendations for retesting and/or isolating if results are positive.
- c. Schools should avoid policies that incentivize coming to school while sick.

Investigating and Responding to COVID-19 cases

All SRCS families are requested to report student cases of COVID positivity to their school administration.

All SRCS personnel are required to self-report COVID positivity to site administrator, departmental supervisor, or designated COVID liaison.

Health Technicians (and/or Administrators and designated COVID liaisons) are trained to identify potential COVID symptomatic presence and respond appropriately through the implementation of case isolation, testing procedures where appropriate, mandated quarantine as needed, and facilitate administration of exposure notifications.

Managing Students and Personnel Diagnosed with COVID-19:

Prompt management of students and personnel diagnosed with COVID-19 can prevent further spread and, in some cases, allow for early treatment.

Recommended Action:

- a. Students and personnel diagnosed with COVID-19 should follow recommendations listed in Table 1 (Persons with COVID-19) of CDPH's guidance for the general public, 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.

Managing Students and Personnel Exposed to COVID-19:

Prompt notification to students and families as well as personnel regarding exposure to infectious diseases, including COVID-19, can allow for rapid testing, early treatment, and prevention of further spread.

Recommended Actions:

- a. It is recommended that families notify schools if their child has COVID-19 and was on school grounds during their infectious period, and that schools in turn 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 infectious period.
- b. In lieu of individual exposure notifications, schools should consider providing a general notification to the entire school community during times of elevated community transmission of COVID-19. This communication can alert all to the increased potential of being exposed to COVID-19 due to a rise in cases among school and community members, and remind all to monitor for symptoms and get tested.
- c. All students and personnel with known exposure to persons with COVID-19 should follow recommendations listed in Table 2 (Asymptomatic Persons Who are Exposed to Someone with COVID-19) of CDPH's guidance for the general public. If they remain without symptoms, students may continue to take part in all aspects of K–12 schooling including sports and extracurricular activities. As recommended in Table 2, they should wear a well-fitting mask around others for a total of 10 days and get tested 3–5 days after last exposure.

Managing COVID-19 Outbreaks:

CDPH will continue to support local health and education officials in managing suspected or confirmed outbreaks of COVID-19.

Recommended Actions:

- a. Broad disruptions to in-person learning, such as temporary school or classroom closures, due to COVID-19 should remain a last resort and considered only after all available resources have been exhausted, and only after conferring with local health officials.
- b. Local public health officials are encouraged to contact CDPH to learn more about consultation, testing and vaccination resources to support management of COVID-19 outbreaks.

Cleaning Facilities:

Any person clearing areas of known infection should be equipped with the proper PPE for COVID-19 disinfection (Tyvek coveralls, gloves, eye protection, mask, or respirator if required) in addition to PPE required for cleaning products. In general, routine cleaning is enough to sufficiently remove the virus that causes COVID-19 from surfaces. If disinfectants are used, use asthma-safer products.

Recommended action:

- a. Drinking fountains may be open and used by students and staff. Routine cleaning is recommended.

Communicating, Training and Instruction**Communication**

SRCS District and school sites utilize online communication portals (ie: ParentSquare) to keep families, students, staff, and administrators informed of updates and changes to COVID safety protocols, as well providing access to community and online resources to support COVID safety.

SRCS COVID Department provides comprehensive COVID safety information and resources (including COVID Safety Handbook and COVID Safety Plan) to SRCS staff, students, and families via the SRCS website at srcschools.org.

All SRCS COVID policies, protocols, and programs are reviewed by the Santa Rosa City Schools Board of Education for approval and implementation, and can be accessed on the SRCS website and the SRCS Board Agendas & Minutes.

Training and Instruction

SRCS provides employee training on the following topics using interactive methods that are easy to understand including lecture, PPT, handouts, or accessible online resources.

- General description of COVID-19, symptoms, when to seek medical attention, how to prevent its spread, and the employer's procedures for preventing its spread at the workplace.
- How an infected person can spread COVID-19 to others even if they are not sick.
- How to prevent the spread of COVID-19 by using cloth face covers, including:
 - CDC guidelines that everyone should use cloth face cover when around other persons.
 - How cloth face covers can help protect persons around the user when combined with physical distancing and frequent hand washing.
 - Information that cloth face covers are not protective equipment and do not protect the person wearing a cloth face cover from COVID-19.
 - Instructions on washing and sanitizing hands before and after using face coverings, which should be washed after each shift.
- Cough and sneeze etiquette.

- Washing hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, after interacting with other persons and after contacting shared surfaces or objects.
- Avoiding touching eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoiding sharing personal items with co-workers (i.e., dishes, cups, utensils, towels.)
- Providing tissues, no-touch disposal trash cans and hand sanitizer for use by employees.
- Safely using cleaners and disinfectants, which includes:
 - The hazards of the cleaners and disinfectants used at the worksite.
 - Wearing PPE (such as gloves).
 - Ensuring cleaners and disinfectants are used in a manner that does not endanger employees.

Reporting, recordkeeping, and access

It is the current practice of SRCS to have a designated “COVID Liaison” for each school site and District department who maintains communication with the office of the COVID Coordinator (a functionary of the Superintendent’s Office) for the purpose of daily tracking and reporting of known COVID cases at all SRCS sites.

Aggregate reports of these cases are then submitted to the California Department of Public Health S.P.O.T. (School Portal for Outbreak Tracking) system, which is accessible to state and county health authorities.

Reporting COVID-19 disease burden to local health authorities:

Notifying local health authorities of the disease burden in schools can expedite deployment of additional strategies and resources to manage illness and contain transmission and outbreaks.

Required Actions:

- a. K–12 schools should refer to California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 17, §2500 and §2508 for reporting requirements. Note that 17 CCR §2500 has been temporarily modified by the State Public Health Officer Order of February 10th, 2022.
- b. As workplaces, schools are subject to COVID-19 workplace outbreak reporting requirements stipulated in AB 685 and Cal/OSHA Emergency Temporary Standards.

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