

PROMOTING EXCELLENCE AND
SUCCESS FOR ALL STUDENTS



Hawthorne School District

HAWTHORNE SCHOOL

2023-2024 COVID-19 Containment, Response, and Control Plan

Hawthorne Middle School

Updated: 8/25/2023

This is a fluid working document that may be adjusted as conditions and guidance change.

Preface

This plan is based upon current health guidelines and is maintained for the purpose of operating a safe in-person program across all schools within the Hawthorne School District for the 2023-2024 school year. The plan is executed in conjunction with the required *COVID-19 Prevention and Response Guidelines for Education Settings* from the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (LACDPH).

COVID-19 Compliance Team

HSD maintains a COVID-19 Compliance Team at the District and school level that is responsible for enforcing all COVID-19 safety protocols and ensuring that students and employees receive the necessary education. The COVID-19 Compliance Team consists of the following individuals/positions and may include others as needed:

District Level

Matthew Rohrer – Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources
Rudy Salas – Director of Pupil Personnel Services
Nicole Boykin – District Licensed Vocational Nurse
Justin Uribe – COVID-19 Liaison (COVID-19 LACDPH liaison)
Sharon Thomas – District Roving Health Clerk
Veronica Vallejo – District Roving Health Clerk

School Level

Principal- Martha Castellanos
Assistant Principal- Bridget Cruz brown
Health Clerk - Pamela Cole
Office Staff Member(s) - Melanie Gonzalez, Mayra Bustamonte & Christine Lopez

Face Masks

Any employee may request and obtain medical masks and respirators. Currently, universal indoor masking is not required and is based on an individual preference when there has been no known exposure. Individuals are encouraged to assess their own risk for severe illness and that of their household, risk tolerance, and setting specific factors when deciding to wear a mask. Wearing a well-fitting mask while indoors around others for 10 days is:

- **Strongly recommended** for students and staff following their last exposure to COVID-19
- **Required** for staff members through the end of Day 10 following a COVID-19 positive test result or diagnosis who return to work after having met the return criteria on/after Day 6 through the end of Day 10.
- **Required** for students through the end of Day 10 following a COVID-19 positive test result or diagnosis who return to school after having met the return criteria on/after Day 6. The masking requirement can be lifted sooner if the parent/guardian attests that the student has tested negative twice at least 1 day apart. If this occurs, masking will only be strongly recommended through the end of Day 10.

**Note: Day 0 is the first day of symptoms or, if no symptoms develop, then the day when the first positive test was collected.*

At times, LACDPH may require universal indoor masking or may require masking for certain individuals. Affected staff and students will be notified of these changes should they occur. People instructed by their medical provider not to wear a mask and people with certain medical conditions or disabilities who are unable to wear a mask should reach out to their site administrator to seek a masking exemption in the event that indoor masking is required (if an exemption is currently not on file). No person will be prevented from wearing a mask as a condition of participation in an activity or entry into the schools unless wearing a mask would pose a safety hazard. Children under the age of 2 should not wear a mask.

Handwashing

Handwashing is strongly recommended as one of the most effective ways to prevent the spread of any biological pathogen, including COVID-19. Individuals should wash their hands several times during the day. Hands should be thoroughly washed with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and then thoroughly dried. If soap and water aren't available, alcohol-based hand sanitizers that contain at least 60% alcohol should be used. Hand sanitizer dispensers in school offices and in other select areas where soap and water are not easily accessible.

Physical Distancing

Individuals are to comply with all posted and communicated directions regarding physical distancing. Access to certain areas, such as offices and lounges, may be restricted at times to ensure student and staff safety.

Cleaning, Disinfecting, and Ventilation

Area cleaning and disinfecting is conducted in accordance with the guidelines and recommendations issued by LACDPH. Cleaning agents and specialized equipment known to be effective against COVID-19 are utilized. Requests for additional/enhanced cleaning or access to cleaning supplies should be directed to the requesting employee's immediate supervisor or site administrator.

High grade air filters are installed in all air conditioning units and needlepoint bipolar ionization systems have been installed to further improve air quality. Portable air purifier units may be deployed, at times, into classrooms or other indoor locations to promote the movement and filtration of air.

Daily Symptom Screening

All students and staff have been provided with symptom screening protocols that they are to use each day prior to entering the campus. Students who fail to pass the self-screening should contact their school office to confirm if they should stay home or if they are okay to go to school. Any staff member who fails to pass the self-screening is to refrain from reporting to work and must contact either their immediate supervisor or Human Resources. Employees experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 should stay home and get tested for COVID-19 or seek out a medical diagnosis. Those who test negative using an antigen test but continue having COVID-19 symptoms should continue to isolate and retest in 2 days as recommended by the FDA. Those who test negative can resume normal activities when they have been fever-free without the help of fever reducing medications for at least 24 hours.

Visitors

All visitors will be provided with a symptom screening protocol and only admitted to the campus if they pass the screening. Visitors should not enter the facility if they have symptoms of COVID-19. A log containing the visitor's name, phone number, and email address is maintained in the event that the information is needed for contact tracing.

School Contingency Plans for Closure

In the event of a school closure due to COVID-19, instructional and support programs will transition to a remote model. All students and staff have been provided with the necessary materials and resources to implement such a model.

COVID-19 Testing

For students who were identified as a close contact at school, rapid antigen test kits are available upon request from the school's front office at no cost. Staff members identified as on-site close contacts may request a rapid antigen test kit from their site administrator for use at home or on site at no cost. Staff members who prefer to test during paid time may reach out to their site administrator as soon as possible so that a testing time and location may be arranged in advance on their behalf.

Testing for COVID-19 is also available at various locations such as County-run facilities, health centers, or pharmacies. Visit the LACDPH website (ph.lacounty.gov/covidtests) for assistance in locating testing sites. Additional resources can be accessed via the Los Angeles County Information Line by dialing 2-1-1 or texting 52-211.

Response to Notification and Case Reporting

When a COVID-19 infection is reported among a school community member, the COVID-19 Compliance Team engages in case investigation and contact tracing. This process is conducted in accordance with the guidelines established by the LACDPH. Identified close contacts (based on the most current definition of close contact exposure) are informed of their exposure and are provided with the appropriate post-exposure instructions. Identified positive cases are provided with instructions for self-isolation and their return. All procedures will comply with current notification requirements, while maintaining confidentiality mandated by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). The LACDPH Liaison immediately reports any epi-linked cluster of cases (3 or more cases within 7 days) to LACDPH via the Shared Portal for Outbreak Tracking (SPOT).

School Isolation and Quarantine Areas

In the event that a positive test result is reported for a school community member currently on campus, they will be directed to immediately leave the campus and isolate at home. On-campus students with a reported positive test result will be moved to a designated isolation area under supervision away from other students and staff while awaiting pick-up as soon as possible.

Students who develop symptoms associated with COVID-19 while at school are to be referred to the Health Office for evaluation by the Health Clerk. If the evaluation indicates that the student's symptoms are not related to a pre-existing condition, the student will remain in a quarantine area while awaiting removal from the campus. The locations of the isolation and quarantine areas for the school will be noted on the last page of this document.

Home Quarantine

Quarantine is used to keep someone who has been exposed to COVID-19 away from others to help prevent the spread of disease before a person knows they are sick or if they are infected with the virus without feeling symptoms. Student and staff close contacts are not required to quarantine provided they remain asymptomatic. Please note that this is subject to change in accordance with the most up-to-date guidance. Close contacts who are symptomatic are directed to get tested and follow the Isolation Instructions found at ph.lacounty.gov/covidisolation while awaiting for results. If negative for COVID-19, they should stay home until they are fever-free without the help of fever-reducing medicines for at least 24 hours. Full instructions for Close Contacts are available at ph.lacounty.gov/covidcontacts.

Home Isolation

Anyone who tests positive or has been issued a positive diagnosis for COVID-19 is considered to have laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 and needs to follow the home isolation instructions found at ph.lacounty.gov/covidisolation. Current guidance requires that individuals with COVID-19 isolate at home away from others for at least 5 days from when their symptoms started (if they are symptomatic) or from when their first positive test was collected (if they are not symptomatic). Isolation may end after Day 5 (i.e., between Day 6-10) if they have not had a fever for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medicine and they don't have any other symptoms or symptoms are mild and improving. LAC DPH strongly recommends that individuals obtain a negative test for COVID-19 before ending isolation between Day 6-10. It is best to use antigen tests (including self-tests) to lower the risk of false positives. If symptoms of COVID-19 are not improving, they must continue to isolate until symptoms are improving or until after Day 10.

School Specific Information

School Name: Hawthorne Middle School

Isolation Area: Reflection Room located in main office

Quarantine Area: Room 28

Principal/Coordinator: Martha Castellanos micastellanos@hawthorne.k12.ca.us

