

PROMOTING EXCELLENCE AND  
SUCCESS FOR ALL STUDENTS



# Hawthorne School District

## **2022-2023 COVID-19 Containment, Response, and Control Plan**

### **Ramona School**

Updated: April 24, 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 at Ramona School for the 2022-2023 school year. The plan is executed in conjunction with the School Exposure Management Plan required by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (LAC DPH).

## School COVID-19 Compliance Team

The school maintains a COVID-19 Compliance Team responsible for enforcing all COVID-19 safety protocols and ensuring that students and employees receive education about COVID-19. The COVID-19 Compliance Team consists of the following individuals:

Marisa Stewart – School Principal (School COVID-19 Compliance Officer)

Nicole Boykin – Licensed Vocational Nurse (COVID-19 Compliance Officer/LAC DPH Liaison)

Justin Uribe – (COVID-19 Liaison)

Elizabeth Rodriguez – School Health Clerk

Jackie Marin – School Office Staff Member

Sharon Thomas – District Roving Health Clerk

Veronica Vallejo – District Roving Health Clerk

## 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
- **Strongly recommended** for students following a COVID-19 positive test result or diagnosis who return to school after having met the return criteria on/after Day 6
- **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. Day 0 is the first day of symptoms or, if no symptoms are present, then the day when the first positive test was collected.
- **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. Day 0 is the first day of symptoms or, if no symptoms are present, then the day when the first positive test was collected.

At times, LAC DPH may require universal indoor masking or may require masking for certain individuals at our school site. 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 the 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. Hand sanitizer dispensers are located in the school office and in other select areas on campus 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 on campus may be restricted to ensure student and staff safety. Plans have been made to reduce crowding in areas on campus where individuals might otherwise gather.

## **Cleaning and Disinfecting**

Cleaning and disinfecting of areas on campus is conducted in accordance with guidelines and recommendations issued by the LAC DPH. Cleaning agents and specialized equipment known to be effective against COVID-19 are utilized. 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. Anyone who fails to pass the self-screening is to refrain from reporting to the campus and is to contact the school office. All individuals have been directed not to report to the campus if they are sick. This message is reinforced through signage on the campus and through regular multiple communications.

## **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.

## **Contingency Plans for Closure**

In the event of a campus 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**

Testing is available Monday through Friday from 7:30am to 5:00pm at Prairie Vista South (13298 Kornblum Avenue), at county test sites ([covid19.lacounty.gov/testing](https://covid19.lacounty.gov/testing)), and through healthcare providers/pharmacies. Additional resources can be accessed via the Los Angeles County Information Line by dialing 2-1-1 or texting 52-211. Home test kits have been issued at various times throughout the year.

## **Response to Notification and Case Reporting**

When notified that a member of the school community has tested positive for COVID-19, the COVID-19 Compliance Team is activated to engage in contact tracing to identify any potential

close contacts. Close contacts who are symptomatic are directed to quarantine and to get tested for COVID-19. All identified close contacts are issued a letter informing them of their exposure which includes post-exposure instructions. Identified positive cases are provided with instructions for self-isolation. The LAC DPH Liaison immediately reports any cluster of cases (3 or more cases within 14 days) to the LAC DPH via their secure web application or email.

## Isolation and Quarantine Rooms

In the event that an individual exhibits symptoms consistent with COVID-19 while on campus, they are immediately separated and taken to an Isolation Room (Health Office) until they can seek medical attention. Identified close contacts that are required to quarantine are immediately separated and taken to a Quarantine Room (Staff Lounge) while awaiting removal from the campus.

## Contact Tracing

When a laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 infection is reported, the COVID-19 Compliance Team engages in case investigation and contact tracing. This process is conducted in accordance with the guidelines established by the LAC DPH. Identified close contacts (based on the most current definition of close contact exposure) are informed of their exposure and are provided with the appropriate precaution requirements or quarantine information. 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).

## 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. Instructions for COVID-19 Close Contacts are available to anyone who is required to quarantine at [ph.lacounty.gov/covidcontacts](https://ph.lacounty.gov/covidcontacts). Exposed individuals who develop symptoms are to get tested and follow the Isolation Instructions found at [ph.lacounty.gov/covidisolation](https://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.

## 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](https://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 COVID-19 Compliance Officer:** Mrs. Stewart (Principal), (310) 675-7189,  
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