



LINCOLN UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

# COVID-19 SAFETY PLAN

2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR

Updated January 2024

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 provided by the CDPH, local and state agencies, as well as through negotiations.

## **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 California's COVID-19 response.

This document is designed to provide information and assistance to staff, students, and families as we navigate this phase of learning around the COVID-19 pandemic. 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.

We are now at a different point in time with reduced impacts from COVID-19 compared to prior years, due to broad immunity from vaccination and/or natural infection, and readily available treatments for infected people.

## **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. Our comprehensive high school will continue to offer an independent learning center program for students whose health and well-being are compromised by their in-person attendance, and qualify for this short term program. Students who choose Independent Study will be provided with materials and resources to learn independently with periodic, in-person, interaction and instruction from an independent study teacher.

## **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. The COVID-19 vaccination remains the most important strategy to prevent serious illness and death from COVID-19, and early treatments are effective in reducing severity of disease once individuals are infected. 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 follow CDPH recommendations to improve indoor air quality and confer with local health officials when air quality is poor.

We have installed 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. Antigen kits are available at school sites for students, staff and families.

#### 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.

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.

#### 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 who test positive for COVID-19 should follow CDPH recommendations:

- Stay home if experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, until there has been no fever for 24 hours without fever reducing medication and the symptoms are improving
- If NOT experiencing symptoms:
  - Masking is recommended when around others, indoors for 10 days; masks can be discontinued if two COVID tests are negative and they are at least one day apart
- If symptoms, other than fever, are not resolving, continue to isolate until symptoms are resolving. 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 (2 days prior to the onset of symptoms or a positive test), and 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.

#### 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. In general, cleaning once a day is usually enough to sufficiently remove virus that may be on surfaces.

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS:

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

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. 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.

Each school site will continue to have dedicated nursing staff from our Health Services Department. This does not mean that there will be full time nursing staff at each school. They will provide guidance as needed and will communicate regularly with site administration.