

San Pasqual Union School District

Safe Return to In-Person Instruction & Continuity of Services Plan

Updated for

2021/22 School Year

Introduction

Much has been learned since the onset of the pandemic. First and foremost, we affirmed our strong belief that kids do better when attending in-person learning. As such, when the the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) published their updated school guidance in July 2021, they stated, *“The foundational principle of this guidance is that all students must have access to safe and full in-person instruction and to as much instructional time as possible.”* Our goal is to keep kids as safe as possible and in school. The following plan outlines our commitment to in person instruction.

Vaccination

The District encourages all eligible persons to obtain vaccinations. Increasing rates of vaccinations are the best opportunity to keep our community safe and our schools open.

The District has collected vaccination status of all employees and students to inform implementation of prevention strategies that vary by vaccination status (i.e., testing, contact tracing efforts, and quarantine/isolation practices). Employees and students declining to state vaccination status will be considered unvaccinated.

Self-Screening

Staying home when sick with COVID-19 is essential to keep COVID-19 infections out of schools and to prevent spread to others. Students, teachers, and staff are instructed to self-screen prior to coming to campus. Those with symptoms of infectious illness, such as influenza (flu) or COVID-19, should stay home and not report to campus. These symptoms include fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, and diarrhea. Individuals with these symptoms are instructed to contact their healthcare provider for testing and care.

Staff students and visitors should not return to campus until:

1. At least 24 hours have passed since resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications; AND
2. Other symptoms have improved; AND
3. They have a negative test for SARS-CoV-2, OR a healthcare provider has provided documentation that the symptoms are typical of their underlying chronic condition (e.g., allergies or asthma) OR a healthcare provider has confirmed an alternative named diagnosis (e.g., Streptococcal pharyngitis, Coxsackie virus), OR at least 10 days have passed since symptom onset.

It also is essential for students who are not fully vaccinated to quarantine after a recent exposure to someone with COVID-19 (see [Decision Tree](#) for details).

Due to current testing shortages, the December 30 guidance from the State of California, the County of San Diego is temporarily allowing results of at-home tests to start or end isolation excluding those with symptoms. Symptomatic individuals still need to show results of a negative PCR test to return to school. At-home testing results accepted through **Jan 27, 2022** .

Masks

As per recent CDPH guidance November 24, 2021:

*“Masks are one of the most effective and simplest safety mitigation layers to prevent in-school transmission of COVID-19 infections and to support full time in-person instruction in K-12 schools. SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, is transmitted primarily by aerosols (airborne transmission), and less frequently by droplets. Physical distancing is generally used to reduce only droplet transmission, whereas masks are one of the most effective measures for source control of **both** aerosols and droplets. Therefore, masks best promote both safety and in-person learning by reducing the need for physical distancing. Additionally, under the new guidance from the CDC, universal masking also permits modified quarantine practices under certain conditions in K-12 settings, further promoting more instructional time for students.”*

On campus, masks are optional for all when outdoors, however, staff and students considered close contacts to a covid positive person must wear a well-fitted mask for 10 days from exposure including indoors and outdoors when around others.

As mandated by the CDPH, all students and adults are required to mask indoors, with exemptions per [CDPH face mask guidance](#). Exemptions include persons with a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability that prevents wearing a mask. This includes persons with a medical condition for whom wearing a mask could obstruct breathing or who are unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove a mask without assistance. Persons who are hearing impaired, or communicating with a person who is hearing impaired, where the ability to see the mouth is essential for communication. Persons for whom wearing a mask would create a risk to the person related to their work, as determined by local, state, or federal regulators or workplace safety guidelines.

Know which Masks Provide the Best Protection Against COVID-19:

Most Effective	More Effective	Effective	Least Effective
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N95 (also best for wildfire smoke) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KF94 KN95 Double Mask Fitted Surgical Mask 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Surgical Mask 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fabric mask with three or more cloth layers

No matter what kind of mask you wear, check the fit and eliminate gaps above the nose or on the sides. Gaps will significantly reduce the effectiveness of any mask.

Persons without a mask will be provided with one. The school will initiate a restorative process for students refusing to wear a mask. To date, no restorative action has been necessary for staff and students on campus, but if needed:

Step 1 - Verbal Prompting and Encouragement

The process begins with verbal prompting and encouragement from the teacher or direct supervisor.

Step 2 - Informal Conference

If the student consistently refuses after prompting, the student will be referred to a counselor or administrator. During this informal conference, the counselor or administrator will seek to understand the reasons for refusal, review masking requirements and purpose, and discuss options to promote compliance. Options may include mask breaks, increased outdoor learning options, and counseling.

Step 3 - Formal Conference

If the student continues mask refusal, a parent/student/administrator conference will be conducted to discuss additional options which may include independent study.

Step 4 - Independent Study

Students who refuse to wear a mask while indoors will be referred to an appropriate independent study program.

Physical Distancing

Consistent with CDPH and CDC guidance, in-person instruction can occur safely without minimum physical distancing requirements when other mitigation strategies (e.g., masking) are implemented. As such, while mask wearing remains compulsory in indoor settings, no physical distancing standards are required.

Ventilation

Staff are encouraged to introduce fresh outdoor air as much as possible by opening windows and doors where practicable and facilitating opportunities for outdoor learning opportunities. Air conditioning settings are maximized to introduce fresh air. MERV-13 air filters and air filtration systems are checked and replaced every three months to ensure optimal air quality. The District recently upgraded all HVAC units to improve air quality and flow.

Additionally, all classrooms are equipped with medical-grade Hathaspace air purification systems that replace the air in classrooms every hour, removing 99% of common air pollutants like pollen, mold, dust, bacteria, and viruses.

On school buses, students and adults remain masked with windows (at least two fully) open to improve airflow.

Updated 1/7/22

Testing

SPUSD has partnered with the CDPH and has received CLIA authorization for both PCR and rapid antigen tests to be used on site. Only staff and students already on campus have access to SPUSD testing. Those already in isolation or quarantine should use outside facilities that can be found at [211.org](https://www.211.org). At home testing kits are available in the office while supplies last.

Case Reporting & Contact Tracing

To ensure the plan is both followed and updated accordingly, the following SPUSD COVID-19 Liaisons have been designated to receive reports, address concerns, lead training exercises, revise plans, and respond to incidents, including the coordination, documentation, communication, and tracking of possible exposure:

Mark Burroughs, Superintendent/Principal
mark.burroughs@sanpasqualunion.net

Tammy Lee, Assistant Principal
tammy.lee@sanpasqualunion.net

Maria Aguiano, Health and Attendance Clerk
maria.anguiano@sanpasqualunion.net

Consistent with the requirements of AB 86 (2021) and California Code Title 17, section 2500, SPUSD reports school-related COVID-19 cases to the local public health department and assists in contact tracing efforts. The District also reports all positive COVID-19 cases of students and staff to the school community via the SPUSD COVID-19 Dashboard located on the school's website at www.sanpasqualunion.net.

Quarantine & Isolation

QUARANTINE keeps someone who was in "close contact" with someone who has COVID-19 away from others. "Close contact" is defined as being within six feet of a COVID positive person for 15 minutes or more.

ISOLATION keeps someone who is sick or tested positive for COVID-19 without symptoms away from others, even in their own home. Isolation typically lasts 10 days since symptom onset or a positive test result (if asymptomatic).

Quarantines and isolation may vary depending on the exposure setting, between staff and students, and vaccine status.

Quarantine Requirements

The [COVID-19 K-12 Decision Tree](#) is a co-effort between the San Diego County Office of Education and San Diego County Public Health. It is updated to match ever changing CDC and CDPH guidance. SPUSD uses the Decision Tree to make decisions on how to handle students or staff members who show symptoms of COVID-19 or considered a “close contact” with a COVID-19 patient.

The most current version of the Decision Tree can be accessed at:

<https://covid-19.sdcoe.net/Portals/covid-19/Documents/Health%20Practices/COVID-19-Decision-Tree.pdf?updated=072721>

Hand Hygiene

Teachers and other staff will utilize hand hygiene best practice guidance as provided by the CDC (<https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/index.html>) to teach and reinforce washing hands, avoiding contact with one's eyes, nose, and mouth, and covering coughs and sneezes. All staff, including teachers, administrators, and recess/nutrition break/lunch duty supervisors, will promote hand washing throughout the day, especially before and after eating. The District maintains adequate supplies to support healthy hygiene behaviors, including soap, tissues, and hand sanitizers for staff and children. All entrances and classrooms are equipped with hand sanitizer.

Cleaning & Disinfecting

As noted by the CDPH, “. . . *cleaning once a day is usually enough to sufficiently remove potential viruses that may be on surfaces. Disinfecting (using disinfectants on the [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency COVID-19 list](#)) removes any remaining germs on surfaces, which further reduces any risk of spreading infection.*”

All classrooms and common spaces are cleaned and disinfected daily. Electrostatic sprayers are used daily by trained custodial staff following [CDC guidelines](#). Cleaning and sanitation schedules are posted in classrooms, bathrooms, and other common areas.

Teachers, drivers, and other staff members are provided with appropriate supplies to support disinfection of frequently touched surfaces during the day. Specifically, the District utilizes [Lotus Pro High Capacity Cleaning Systems](#) to provide a [safe](#) and [effective](#) method to sanitize learning areas, workspaces, and common areas throughout each day. Teachers and lunch/playground supervisors check out clean microfiber cleaning cloths and Lotus Pro spray bottles daily. Further, all classrooms are equipped with paper towels, hand sanitizer, and disinfectant wipes, with nearly all classrooms equipped sinks with soap and running water.

When cleaning and disinfecting, special attention is paid to high-touch surfaces. Specifically, those surfaces include but are not limited to:

- Door handles
- Light switches
- Sink handles
- Bathroom surfaces
- Tables
- Student Desks
- Chairs

As recommended by the CDE, areas occupied by a person sick with COVID-19 within the prior 24 hours will be cleaned AND disinfected prior to reusing that area.

Nutrition Service

As noted by the CDPH, *“given very low risk of transmission from surfaces and shared objects, there is no need to limit food service approaches to single use items and packaged meals.”* The District will continue to clean frequently touched surfaces, especially those that come in contact with food. Additionally, tables and other eating surfaces will be cleaned and sanitized before and after meals.

Weather permitting, students will eat meals outdoors. Additional seating areas promote physical distancing while eating.
