



## **Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan**

**3/12/2025**

The Hawthorne School District (HSD) will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other school and District staff, and has adopted policies based upon current guidance issued by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (LAC DPH) and safety recommendations issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, including: adhering to LAC DPH guidelines regarding exposure management and outbreak response; promoting the use of face masks among school community members recovering from illness; modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing; promoting hand-washing and general good hygiene; cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities; improving ventilation when possible; promoting access to diagnostic testing; promoting up-to-date vaccinations for all school community members; providing appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and coordinating with state and local health officials to maintain district-wide safety.

The District and all schools within the District maintain health and safety policies and procedures to support a healthy and safe environment for students and staff. In addition to this District plan, the HSD Employee Health and Safety Protocols have been issued to all employees, are posted on the District's website, and were incorporated into the HSD Employee Handbook. These protocols include current requirements and recommendations related to masking, physical distancing, hand-washing, cleaning and disinfecting, daily symptom screening, personal protective equipment (PPE), COVID-19 testing, contact tracing, quarantine, and home isolation. The District maintains compliance with the LAC DPH COVID-19 and Acute Respiratory Illness (ARI) Guidelines for Education Settings to support safe, in-person learning across all school sites. Each school site also maintains a COVID-19 Containment, Response, and Control Plan that addresses face masks, hand-washing, physical distancing, cleaning and disinfecting, ventilation, daily symptom screening, visitors, school contingency plans for closure, COVID-19 testing, response to notification and case reporting, school isolation and quarantine rooms, home quarantine, and guidance for people with COVID-19. School site plans are posted on the District's COVID-19 webpage at <https://www.hawthornesd.org/parent-community/parent-notice/covid-19/covid-19-guidance>.

While these various policies and procedures cover a wide range of areas and topics, some commonalities and highlights are as follows:

- It is strongly recommended that all individuals follow the recommendations of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health regarding the use of masks in various settings. Masking recommendations are based on transmission levels and are variable over time.
- All staff and students are encouraged to self-screen daily prior to entering any school campus or District property.
- Regular cleaning and disinfecting take place at all sites, which includes the use of specialized cleaning equipment and cleaning agents known to be effective against SARS-CoV-2.
- Needlepoint bipolar ionization (NPBI) units have been installed in the ventilation systems in each classroom and at each District facility to remove potentially harmful particles from the air and air filters have been upgraded to the highest quality feasible for each individual HVAC unit, with many HVAC units also having been replaced and air purifiers added.
- Frequent handwashing is encouraged for all students and staff and hand sanitizer stations are made available in classrooms, school offices, and health clerk offices as needed.
- Plexiglass partitions remain available upon request for all school offices.
- New furniture, such as student desks, cafeteria tables, benches, etc., has been purchased and installed to allow for appropriate distancing and flexibility in instructional delivery and meal service.
- A School COVID-19 Compliance Team has been established at each school site.
- Each school site maintains a dedicated Quarantine Room and Isolation Room.
- The District employs a licensed vocational nurse (LVN) who serves as the COVID-19 Compliance Officer and LAC DPH CD Liaison and a Health & Safety Liaison who oversees testing and vaccination efforts and assists with COVID-19 response efforts.
- COVID-19 home testing kits are available for all employees and located at all work sites.

- Employees are encouraged to stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines based on recommendations by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
- All concerning clusters of linked respiratory illness cases are reported to the LAC DPH.
- Lunches are eaten in outdoor areas where feasible to minimize the possibility of transmission while eating and drinking.
- Signage is posted throughout all school sites, as appropriate, encouraging good everyday hygiene such as frequent hand-washing.
- Access to elevators and shared spaces, such as staff lounges, is limited to reduce occupancy.
- All employees have access to Pandemic/Flu related courses in the Vector Solutions/Keenan SafeSchools online training platform.
- All visitors are advised to not enter district facilities if they have symptoms of COVID-19, with contact information being collected in the event that it is needed for contact tracing.
- Students and staff with COVID-19 are provided with current guidance on staying home when sick and when they may return.
- Information regarding COVID-19 exposure prevention, safety, and associated protocols has been disseminated to all families and is available on the District's website.
- Regular COVID-19 facility inspections are conducted by site principals and supervisors, with any safety hazards being documented and addressed.

Local public health conditions are continuously monitored, and District leadership participates in calls with LAC DPH to ensure that the most current protocols and appropriate practices are in place.

The District ensures continuity of services, including but not limited to services to address students' academic needs and students' and staff's social, emotional, mental health and other needs (such as student health and food services) through a variety of actions and programs.

All teachers maintain an online Google Classroom account to ensure that students can maintain continuous access to instructional content when in the classroom and at

home. Numerous supplemental online programs are also maintained to enhance the online learning experience. All students have been provided with Chromebooks for use at school and at home. Technology support is made available to all students and families who are experiencing access and/or connectivity issues.

The District offers an Independent Study Program (ISP).

Considering the challenges posed by the pandemic, social, emotional, and mental health remain at the forefront of all District initiatives. Each school has on staff a school psychologist, school counselor, and dean of students who work collaboratively to ensure that regular social-emotional wellness check-ins are performed. The District has hired Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) and Registered Behavior Technicians (RBT) to support the successful return to campus. Social-emotional learning (SEL) curriculum is also utilized in conjunction with dedicated time for open classroom conversations to support the development of nurturing and supportive social and emotional environments. The District has hired three School Social Workers, hosts social worker interns, and utilizes agency partners to provide targeted services to identified students and families. Care Solace, an online platform for referring, tracking, and monitoring support services, is used District-wide to ensure that needed services are implemented. This program is also available to provide support to staff, in addition to the EASE program offered through the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE). The District is partnered with the Richstone Family Center to provide three licensed family therapists that will provide support to our students and families.

Each school site has a health clerk on staff to address the health needs of students. The District LVN provides enhanced health support as needed. Partnerships with Little Company of Mary, Venice Family Clinic, and other local agencies provide access to additional health services, both on and off site.

Access to food services has been maintained throughout the pandemic through the efforts of the District's Nutrition Services staff. Meals were distributed to students, families, and the community through a pickup distribution model, with recipients being able to secure food at any of a variety of designated school-based distribution points during the summer months. The District has worked to promote the utilization of the Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P- EBT) program for eligible students, to ensure that families have access to the benefits associated with this federal food program administered by the California Department of Social Services (CDSS). With school back in session, food services are currently provided to students at their school site during breakfast and lunch, with families of students enrolled in the ISP being able to pick up meals during designated times at their assigned home school.

In the event of case isolation or quarantine, short-term independent study is utilized to ensure continuity of services for affected students. Continuous access to instruction is maintained through the use of Google Classroom and access to support services is

provided by designated staff at each school site. Specialized support services for students with disabilities and English learners (ELs) are provided by special education staff and EL support staff from the student's school site or through contracted agency staff. If a full school closure were to be necessary in the future, students would use their District-issued devices to access instruction via Google Classroom and live Google Meets sessions. In this scenario, support services would continue to be provided by designated support staff at each school and food services would be maintained through the previous site-based distribution model.

The District sought public comments in the development of this plan and considered any and all comments received. The District's initial plan (in the form of the previously required COVID-19 Safety Plan) was publicly posted on the District's COVID-19 webpage at <https://www.hawthornesd.org/parent-community/parent-notice/covid-19/covid-19-guidance>. The public may submit comments from the COVID-19 Risk Reduction page. The plan was also reviewed with the District Advisory Council (DAC), a group comprised of parents/guardians from each school site, with additional feedback being sought. For this current revision of the plan, it was requested that additional details be provided regarding the health and safety measures that are in place at each school site to prevent the exposure and spread of COVID-19. That information is now reflected in the initial section of the plan.

The following persons are the appropriate contacts for any questions or concerns about this plan:

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