



PROMOTING EXCELLENCE AND
SUCCESS FOR ALL STUDENTS



Hawthorne School District

COVID-19 Containment, Response, and Control Plan

Hawthorne Middle School

Updated: 3/20/2025

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 2024-2025 school year. The plan is executed in conjunction with the required *COVID-19 and Acute Respiratory Illness (ARI) 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 – Health & Safety Liaison (LACDPH Communicable Disease Liaison)
Sharon Thomas – District Roving Health Clerk
Veronica Vallejo – District Roving Health Clerk

School Level

Martha Castellanos - Principal
Carlos Howe - Assistant Principal
Pam Cole-Williams - Health Clerk
Melanie Gonzalez, Evelyn Guzman, and Chris Lopez - Office Staff Members

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:

- **Requested** for staff members, following a COVID-19 positive test result or diagnosis, who return to work before the end of Day 10 until two sequential negative tests are obtained after being taken at least one day apart. If this occurs, masking will then only be strongly recommended through the end of Day 10.
- **Requested** for students, following a COVID-19 positive test result or diagnosis, who return to school before the end of Day 10 until the parent/guardian attests that the student has obtained two sequential negative tests taken at least one day apart. If this occurs, masking will then only be strongly recommended through the end of Day 10.
- **Strongly recommended** students and staff following their last exposure to COVID-19.

**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 one of the best ways to avoid getting sick and spreading germs that cause respiratory illnesses and diarrhea. 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 may be found 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

Parents/guardians of students who feel sick with COVID-19 symptoms should notify their school office to confirm if they should stay home or if they are okay to go to school.

Employees experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 should stay home away from others, wear a well-fitting mask if around others while they are feeling sick, and test for COVID-19 or reach out to their healthcare provider. Those who test negative using an antigen test but continue having COVID-19 symptoms should retest in 2 days, as recommended by LACDPH. Those who test negative can resume normal activities when their symptoms are improving, and they have been fever-free without the help of fever reducing medications for at least 24 hours.

Visitors

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.

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 CD Liaison immediately reports any concerning and linked respiratory illness clusters 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 until they are well enough to return. 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 is not well enough to stay in school, 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. 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 Community Guidelines found at ph.lacounty.gov/covidcommunity while awaiting for results. If negative for COVID-19 but symptoms are still present, they retest in 48 hours and should stay home until their symptoms improve and 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/covidcommunity.

Guidance for People with COVID-19

Anyone who tests positive or has been issued a positive diagnosis for COVID-19 should follow the Community Guidelines found at ph.lacounty.gov/covidcommunity. Current guidance instructs symptomatic individuals with COVID-19 to stay home away from others until fever-free for 24 hours (without using fever-reducing medication) and when other symptoms are improving. LACDPH recommends that they test negative before resuming normal activities. For those without symptoms, home isolation is not needed provided they also monitor for symptoms. All persons with COVID-19 are instructed to wear a well-fitting mask around others and avoid contact with high-risk individuals for 10 days after they started feeling sick or tested positive if no symptoms present. Treatment is also recommended for COVID-19. We strongly encourage school community members with COVID-19 to inform anyone they may have been in contact with while potentially infectious that they may have been exposed. Parents of students with COVID-19 should report positive tests or diagnoses to their school's front office. Staff members with COVID-19 should report their positive test or diagnosis to the district's Health & Safety Liaison.

School Specific Information

School Name: Hawthorne Middle School

Isolation Area: Reflection Room located in the Main Office

Quarantine Area: Room 28

Principal: Martha Castellanos (micastellanos@hawthorne.k12.ca.us)

