At the center of all planning is Carmel Unified School District’s commitment to the health and safety of its students, staff, and families while continuing to provide an educational program committed to our mission: The Carmel Unified School District community produces lifelong learners who are prepared for the challenges of higher education, the workplace, and their role as citizens of an ever-changing global community.

The purpose of this plan is to define the measures being taken by Carmel Unified School District to help reduce the risk of infection from COVID-19 (a.k.a., SARS-CoV-2, coronavirus) in an educational setting. The defined measures are based upon guidance from established public health authorities as of the date of this document, including the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), California Occupational Safety and Health Administration (CalOSHA) and Monterey County Health Department (MCHD).

While the provisions of this document are intended to help reduce COVID-19 risk, they cannot guarantee that infection will not occur. If you or your family have health concerns, always contact your healthcare provider.

### Safety Precautions and Protocols

- **Cleaning Protocols**
  Carmel Unified School District will adhere to prevailing public health guidance regarding the cleaning and disinfection of its facilities.

- **Masks**
  In accordance with CDPH guidelines, students and staff should follow CDPH masking guidance for the general public, as well as masking guidance for specific situations referenced below (e.g., when having symptoms, being infected, or exposed). No person can be prevented from wearing a mask.

- **COVID-19 Testing**
  The District Office and each CUSD school offers take-home rapid COVID tests for students and staff who are experiencing symptoms. At-home tests are also distributed by the district during school breaks to test prior to returning to school.

- **Travel**
  If you are considering travel, please review this important information from the CDC. We appreciate your support in reducing exposure to students and staff.

- **COVID-19 Vaccinations**
  California strongly recommends that all eligible individuals get vaccinated against COVID-19 and remain up-to-date to protect oneself and reduce transmission of the virus.

  CDPH Schools Guidance states, "Additionally, children have fallen behind on receiving other vaccines over the course of the pandemic, placing them and their communities at increased risk of falling ill from other vaccine-preventable illnesses. Families should review statutory requirements for vaccination requirements for entry into K-12 schools and visit Shots for School for information."

  CUSD is following all current vaccination requirements for staff and will implement student requirements if/when directed by the state. At this time, no COVID-19 vaccination requirement exists for students for the 2022-23 school year.

- **Hand Washing**
  Staff and students will be trained to clean their hands often and avoid touching their eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands. Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, use a proper hand sanitizer. Staff and students will be instructed to wash or sanitize their hands upon arrival on the campus, after using the restroom, and before and after eating. Hand washing and hand sanitizing for students will be reinforced daily with time allotted to wash hands regularly. Hand sanitizer stations will be available at all school sites. For more information visit the Center for Disease Control.

- **Volunteers and Visitors**
  We know family and community engagement is vital to the success of our schools. Per the CDPH, "Schools should not limit access for essential direct service providers who comply with school visitor policies due to a concern about mitigating spread of COVID-19."

  Visitors/volunteers are not required to be vaccinated for COVID-19.

- **Ventilation**
  For all CUSD indoor spaces, ventilation is optimized following CDPH Guidance on Ventilation of Indoor Environments.
SAFETY PRECAUTIONS AND PROTOCOLS CONTINUED

Screening for Symptoms

If a staff or student experiences any of the following symptoms they should stay home, contact their healthcare provider and contact their school site office for direction.

Common Symptoms of COVID-19
- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue (tiredness)
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

Click here for more information on the symptoms of COVID-19 from the CDC.

Group Tracing & Notifications

It is recommended that families notify their school(s) if their child has COVID-19 and was on school grounds during their infectious period.

In lieu of individual exposure notifications, CUSD will consider providing a general notification to the entire school community during times of elevated community transmission of COVID-19.

All students with known exposure to persons with COVID-19 may continue to take part in all aspects of K-12 schooling including sports and extracurricular activities, but it is recommended that they should wear a well-fitting mask around others for a total of 10 days and get tested 3-5 days after last exposure.

If symptoms develop, test and stay home AND if test result is positive, follow isolation guidance below (individuals who test positive for COVID-19).

Individuals with Symptoms

In most situations, any student who develops new, unexplained symptoms should not return to campus until it is clear that symptoms are mild and improving or are due to a non-infectious cause (e.g., allergies). This includes waiting until 24 hours have passed since resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications.

Additionally, if symptoms are concerning for COVID-19, it is strongly recommended that students wear a mask and get tested immediately. Students should also follow CDPH recommendations for retesting and/or isolating if results are positive.

Activities and Events

At this time, there are no restrictions upon schools while hosting extracurricular activities such as sporting events, concerts, dances, open houses, and other large events. Prior to hosting large events, schools are encouraged to review the Safe and SMART Events Playbook for mitigation strategies that should be considered.

Individuals Who Test Positive for COVID-19

CDPH recommends:
- Stay home for at least 5 days after start of symptoms (or after date of first positive test if no symptoms).
- Isolation can end after Day 5 if symptoms are not present or are resolving and a diagnostic specimen* collected on Day 5 or later tests negative.
- If unable to test, choosing not to test, or testing positive on Day 5 (or later), isolation can end after Day 10 if fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications.
- If fever is present, isolation should be continued until 24 hours after fever resolves.
- If symptoms, other than fever, are not resolving, continue to isolate until symptoms are resolving or until after Day 10. 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.

Per CDPH masking guidance, infected persons should wear a well-fitting mask around others for a total of 10 days, especially in indoor settings.

*Antigen test preferred.

Transportation and Student Meals

CUSD transportation services are operating at normal capacity. Masks are recommended but not required, to be worn by students and staff on all CUSD transportation.

All school meals are free until further notice. In line with CDPH Schools Guidance, drinking fountains may be open and used by students and staff.

Social and Emotional Wellness

CUSD staff and schools are committed to supporting the social emotional wellness of each student and staff member. CUSD has expanded its social and emotional support services for the return to in-person instruction.

Consult the CUSD COVID Decision Guide for scenarios and additional information at carmelunified.org