

CARMEL UNIFIED 2021-22 COVID SAFETY INFORMATION

Updated: January 24, 2022

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](#), masks must be worn indoors on all CUSD sites when students are present, including on school buses and areas where physical distancing alone is not sufficient to prevent disease transmission. Staff will teach and reinforce the use of face coverings.

COVID-19 Testing

Each CUSD school site has at least one Health Aide Contact Tracer and offers rapid COVID-19 testing for students and staff. CUSD also offers regular PCR testing at a central location at the district office five days a week. To register for testing and make an appointment, please [visit our website](#).

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

In August 2021, Governor Newsom signed an executive order mandating that all school employees and school volunteers either provide proof of full COVID-19 vaccination or submit to regular, weekly COVID-19 testing beginning October 15, 2021.

On October 1, 2021, Governor Newsom announced the COVID-19 vaccine for students will be added to California's list of required vaccines for in-person school, upon full FDA approval. As early as January 1, 2022, or by July 1, 2022 (depending on FDA approval date) COVID-19 vaccination will be required of all staff and students (starting with grades 7-12 and then to include grades K-6, both when approved by FDA).

CUSD is following all current vaccination requirements for staff and will implement student requirements when directed by the state.

Ventilation

For all CUSD indoor spaces, ventilation is optimized following [CDPH Guidance on Ventilation of Indoor Environments](#).

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 limit nonessential visitors, volunteers, and activities involving external groups or organizations with people who are not fully vaccinated." We value our volunteers and look forward to having them back on campus in the future.

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, Isolation and Quarantine

CUSD has Health Aides at each school site trained to group trace COVID-19 exposures and to administer COVID-19 tests. Staff, students or families may be contacted from time to time with exposure notices from a CUSD Health Aide as they work diligently to keep staff, students and community members safe.

If a staff member or a student has received a positive COVID-19 test result, they should stay home, contact their healthcare provider and contact their site's Health Aide Contact Tracer for direction. CUSD also has dedicated weekend group tracers on duty each weekend. To report a COVID positive test result or exposure over a weekend, please call the CUSD COVID response line at (831) 620-8100. See the graphics below for information on when it is safe for students/staff to return to school after quarantine or after isolation, as directed by a CUSD Health Aide or the local health department.



School-Based Extracurricular Activities

This guidance applies to all extracurricular activities that are operated or supervised by schools, and all activities that occur on a school site, whether or not they occur during school hours, including, but not limited to, sports, band, chorus, and clubs. Masks are required for all persons while playing all indoor sports, unless wearing a mask during play has been determined to pose a choking hazard by a well-recognized health authority, such as the American Academy of Pediatrics.

For (1) the playing of musical instruments that cannot be done with a face covering (e.g., wind instruments); or (2) when wearing a mask during play poses a choking hazard, at least one of the following options is required:

- Conduct these activities outdoors;
- Use modified face coverings and bell coverings when playing wind and brass instruments, and maintain 6 feet of physical distancing;
- Perform at least weekly screening testing with either PCR testing (1:1 or pooled PCR) or antigen testing of all individuals, including those who are fully vaccinated.



QUARANTINE

keeps someone who was in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 away from others.

Quarantine if you have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19, unless you have been fully vaccinated.

If you are fully vaccinated

- You do NOT need to quarantine unless you have symptoms
- Get tested 5-7 days after your exposure, even if you don't have symptoms
- Wear a mask indoors in public for 14 days following exposure or until your test result is negative

If you are not fully vaccinated

- Stay home for 14 days after your last contact with a person who has COVID-19
- Watch for fever (100.4°F), cough, shortness of breath, or other symptoms of COVID-19
- If possible, stay away from people you live with, especially people who are at higher risk for getting very sick from COVID-19
- Contact your local public health department for options in your area to possibly shorten your quarantine



ISOLATION

keeps someone who is sick or tested positive for COVID-19 without symptoms away from others, even in their own home.

People who are in isolation should stay home and stay in a specific "sick room" or area and use a separate bathroom (if available).

If you are sick and think or know you have COVID-19

Stay home until after

- At least 10 days since symptoms first appeared **and**
- At least 24 hours with no fever without the use of fever-reducing medications **and**
- Symptoms have improved

If you tested positive for COVID-19 but do not have symptoms

- Stay home until after 10 days have passed since your positive viral test
- If you develop symptoms after testing positive, follow the steps above for those who are sick

cdc.gov/coronavirus



Transportation and Student Meals

CUSD transportation services are operating at normal capacity. Masks are required to be worn by students and staff on all CUSD transportation.

While eating, students are encouraged to socially distance and to eat outdoors whenever weather permits. CUSD provides contact-free meal service to protect students and employees. All school meals are free until further notice. School sites have staggered meal times as feasible to allow for distribution and as much physical distancing as possible.



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

