

NORTHRIDGE COMMUNITY SCHOOL

COVID-19 CONTAINMENT, RESPONSE AND CONTROL PLAN

Northridge Community School has a designated COVID-19 Compliance Team that is responsible for establishing and enforcing all COVID-19 safety protocols and ensuring that staff and students receive education about COVID-19. The Compliance team is comprised of the School Administrator, Joan Holder, and the School Secretary, Kristine Webb. The School Secretary is designated as a liaison to DPH in the event of an outbreak on campus.

We will follow all the safety protocols which are required by the Los Angeles Department of Public Health. Many of the measures are now recommendations rather than requirements and we will implement these when possible if it does not interfere with the learning process. They may also be implemented during the year as circumstances dictate.

MEASURES TO PREVENT COVID-19

Screening

Symptom screening is to be conducted each school day for each student and staff member before coming to school. Review the list of COVID-19 symptoms and risk factors below. Indicate any symptoms you are experiencing that are not explained by another medical condition.

- *Fever or chills (fever = 100.4°F/38°C or above)*
- *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*
- *Diarrhea*
- *Within the past 10 days, have you had contact (been within 6 feet for more than 15 minutes) with anyone that had COVID-19 or COVID-19 symptoms?*
- *Within the past 10 days, have you tested positive for COVID-19?*

- *Have you been instructed by a public health official or healthcare professional to quarantine or isolate due to a potential COVID-19 exposure?*

If there is a positive response to any of the questions above, or if a person has been exposed to a person who has COVID-19, do not come to school!

Face Coverings

- Anyone over age 2 who is entering a school building is required to wear a face mask at all times while indoors except while eating, drinking, or napping.
- Face coverings are NOT needed when outdoors.
- Parents are to ensure that children have clean face coverings. Parents of younger children are encouraged to provide a second face-covering for child care each day in case the mask they are wearing gets soiled.
- Children who have been instructed not to wear face coverings by their medical provider are exempt from wearing one. Instead, they should substitute a face shield with drape at the bottom. A note from the doctor must be submitted to the office.
- Teacher's may wear a plastic face shield with a drape that can be tucked in when advised to do so by their medical provider or when the school has deemed it to be more beneficial for student instruction. Employees who are exempt from wearing a mask while indoors, must undergo COVID-19 testing at least twice per week, unless the employee provides proof of full vaccination status against COVID-
- For the most updated LACDPH guidance and information on masking, refer to the [COVID-19 Masks](#) page.

Hand Washing

- Everyone will be instructed to frequently wash their hands throughout the day for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, but especially at the beginning and end of their time on campus, before and after mealtimes, and after using the restroom.
- Hand sanitizer will be available in the office, the classrooms and outdoors for snack and lunch time. Students will be encouraged to use it before and after

touching items that other people may have touched, such as door knobs, centers, and classroom library books.

Distancing

Physical distancing is no longer required. We will endeavor to maintain increased space between students when it is feasible and not disruptive. An example of this would be spacing desks/seating when space in the classroom allows for it.

Stable Group Structures

Stable groups are groups of students and staff with fixed membership that stay together for all activities (e.g., instruction, lunch, recess) to minimize/avoid contact with other groups or individuals who are not part of the stable group. Stable groups are not required in LA county at this time. As our school is small with many siblings, we do not feel a stable group structure is needed at this time. We will consider implementing them if needed due to a Covid-19 outbreak at the school or community at large, by using existing classroom groupings.

Ventilation & the Use of the Outdoors

Measures to promote optimal ventilation in the school might include:

- Maximizing the use of outdoor spaces for an activity or lesson whenever feasible and weather permitting.
- Keeping doors and windows are open during the school day if feasible and if outdoor conditions make this appropriate.

Visitor Policies

- Visitors are required to wear a face mask at all times while inside the school. A face mask will be made available to visitors who arrive without them.
- Visitors, including parents, must check in at the office and register in a visitor log that includes the visitor's name, phone number, and email address in case this information is needed in the future for notification of exposure to Covid-19.

MEASURES TO CONTAIN THE SPREAD OF COVID-19

Policies for Individuals Exhibiting Symptoms at School

- If a student is sick or experiencing symptoms at school, the teacher or other designated adult will escort the student directly to the isolation area in room 1,5 or 10, and report to one of the School Compliance Officers. A parent will be called to pick up the child immediately. The student will be given a surgical mask to wear and should remain in isolation until they can go home or be taken to the appropriate medical facility.
- ***Parents must insure that the school has been provided with up-to-date emergency contact information including multiple parent contact options.***
- Parents who become sick or experience symptoms while at school should notify the office and leave the building immediately or report to the designated isolation room until able to leave the school.
- Per the DPH Symptom and Exposure Screening Pathways, students, staff, and visitors who have had close contact with an individual who has screened positive for symptoms consistent with possible COVID-19 are notified of the potential exposure. These individuals are not required to quarantine unless the exposure has been confirmed. through a positive COVID-19 diagnostic viral test or a clinical diagnosis from a medical provider.
- Students who have a confirmed exposure are accompanied to preselected quarantine space where they can remain until arrangements are made for their return home. This space is apart from the one set aside for symptomatic students. It may be a separate room or an area within the same room that is set apart by a barrier. Once they return home, they are instructed to self-quarantine as required by Health Officer Quarantine Order.

Policies for Confirmed Cases of Covid-19

- The school should be notified immediately if any member of the school community (faculty, staff, student, or visitor) tests positive for COVID-19.
- ***During non-school hours you should text or call Joan Holder, Kristine Webb or your child's teacher so we can take appropriate action immediately,***

Upon notification, the school will follow the “Steps for Managing Exposures to COVID-19 Cases at School” as outlined in the chart which follows.

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
ORDER OF THE HEALTH OFFICER**



Appendix A: Steps for Managing Exposures to COVID-19 Cases at School

1 Case	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) <i>Required:</i> School instructs the case to follow COVID-19 Home Isolation Instructions. 2) <i>Required:</i> School informs the case that DPH will contact the case directly to collect additional information and issue Health Officer Order for Isolation. 3) <i>Required:</i> School works with the case to identify school contacts. 4) <i>Required:</i> School notifies* school contacts of exposure and instructs them to quarantine at home and test for COVID-19. NOTE: Asymptomatic persons who are fully vaccinated AND have an exposure are recommended to test but are not required to quarantine. Asymptomatic persons who have been diagnosed with COVID-19 within the last 90 days AND have an exposure are not required to quarantine or test for COVID-19. 5) <i>Required:</i> School informs school contacts that DPH will contact them directly to collect additional information and issue Health Officer Order for Quarantine. 6) <i>Required:</i> School submits a report to DPH within 1 business day with information on the confirmed case and persons who were exposed to the case at the site. 7) <i>Recommended:</i> School sends general notification* to inform the school community of the school exposure and precautions taken to prevent spread. <p>*Templates for contact notification and general notification are available at: COVID-19 Template Notification Letters for Education Settings.</p>
2 Cases	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) <i>Required:</i> Follow required steps for 1 confirmed case. 2) <i>Recommended:</i> If the 2 cases occurred within 14 days of each other, school works with DPH to determine whether the cases have epidemiological (epi) links. If epi links exist, school implements additional infection control measures.
3+ Cases	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) <i>Required:</i> If a cluster of 3 or more cases occurred within 14 days of each other, school immediately notifies DPH. 2) <i>Required:</i> DPH determines if the outbreak criteria have been met. If outbreak criteria are met, a DPH outbreak investigation is activated, and a public health investigator will contact the school to coordinate the outbreak investigation.

- Guidelines for isolation of a sick child are the same as those for an adult. The child must stay home in isolation and not return to the school facility for a minimum of 10 days after onset of symptoms AND until their symptoms have improved AND they are free of fever for at least 24 hours without fever-reducing medication.

- Here is guidance on home isolation from the DPH website:
<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/docs/HomeisolationenCoV.pdf>
- Free Local COVID-19 testing, including for minors, is available in our area through the following:
Valley Urgent Care. 9335 Reseda Blvd. #100, Northridge
- All testing results will be reported to the Department of Public Health
- According to the LA County Health Department, a person is considered to have been exposed if they are one of the following:
 - An individual who was within 6 feet of the infected person for more than 15 minutes, even if a non-medical face covering was worn;
 - An individual who had unprotected contact with the infected person's body fluids and/or secretions of a person with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 (e.g., being coughed or sneezed on, sharing utensils or saliva, or providing care without using appropriate protective equipment).
 - If the exposure happened in a school classroom, all persons that were in the classroom during the infectious period are considered exposed at this time.

Contingency Plans for Full or Partial Closure of in-Person School Operations

- If a student must isolate at home, the teacher will provide lesson plans and materials for the student to homeschool. Materials on Google Classroom and lesson powerpoint or videos may be used when available.
- If a class, or the school at large, closes due to an outbreak in the school or community, the teachers will provide lesson plans and materials as outlined above. Zoom classes would also be offered for difficult and/or new concepts.

Additional communications will be ongoing as COVID-19 guidelines and requirements change. If you have any questions, please contact Joan Holder or Kristine Webb with any questions or concerns as it pertains to COVID-19.