

COVID-19 Safety Plan (CSP) for 2021-2022

August 13th 2021

Overview:

Summerfield Waldorf School and Farm continues to be committed to the goal of safely pursuing the highest quality Waldorf education possible in these times. On-campus activities are in full accordance with all California Department of Public Health (CDPH), Center for Disease Control (CDC), Sonoma County Office of Education (SCOE), and County Health Department guidelines and regulations for safety, and we will continue to adjust as these change. These guidelines do recognize that a school will follow protocols as much as is reasonable in the context of the education of children and young people.

Face Coverings:

“Masks are one of the most effective and simplest safety mitigation layers to prevent in-school transmission of COVID-19 infections and to support full time in-person instruction in K-12 schools. SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, is transmitted primarily by aerosols (airborne transmission), and less frequently by droplets.”

- California Department of Public Health, [COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools in California, 2021-22 School Year](#)

We follow all current requirements for face coverings. Well fitting face coverings must be at least 2-ply with no valves. **Students are required to wear masks while they are inside classrooms and buildings.** Teachers/staff are required to wear masks when sharing indoor spaces with students. Masks are available on campus in case a student forgets or loses their mask. Students who are not willing to wear a mask at the times that are required will not be permitted on campus, if they do not have an exemption on file.

Persons exempted from wearing a face covering due to a medical condition should wear a non-restrictive alternative, such as a face shield with a drape on the bottom edge, as long as their condition permits it. An exemption must be on file with the Registrar.

Physical Distancing:

Recent evidence indicates that in-person instruction can occur safely without minimum physical distancing requirements when other mitigation strategies (e.g., masking) are implemented. This is consistent with CDC K-12 School Guidance.

While indoors within classrooms and masked we will layer multiple other prevention strategies, such as improved ventilation, frequent handwashing, and regular cleaning to help reduce transmission risk.

Ventilation:

For indoor spaces, ventilation will be optimized by opening multiple doors and windows, using fans to increase the effectiveness of open windows, and running HEPA portable classroom air purifiers, all which help reduce the potential concentration of virus particles in the air.

Healthy Hygiene Practices:

The availability of handwashing stations and hand sanitizer, and how their use will be promoted and incorporated into routines.

Hand sanitizer (ethanol based 70% denatured hand sanitizer) is available in all offices and areas of instruction. Additionally, all classrooms have their own sinks, and teachers will incorporate regular hand washing into the schedule of the day including before and after eating and recess. Student groups wash their hands before and after using shared tools or playground equipment. Teachers will instruct and support students in other healthy hygiene practices such as avoiding contact with one's eyes, nose, and mouth; and covering coughs and sneezes. As much as we can, we will dedicate all our bathroom facilities to as few people as possible.

Isolation, Quarantine, Screening Testing:

Definitions for clarity:

Isolation separates sick people with a contagious disease from people who are not sick.

Quarantine separates and restricts the movement of people who were exposed to a contagious disease to see if they become sick.

Our following isolation and quarantine protocols come directly from the [COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools in California, 2021-22 School Year](#), dated August 2, 2021. These may change following any updates from the state or county Public Health Departments.

Isolation:

Vaccinated and Unvaccinated.

If **symptomatic**, faculty, staff and children will

- stay home (isolate) for 10 days (first day of symptoms is day zero) **or**
- until they have tested negative or have a doctor's written release **and**
- at least 3 days (72 hours) have passed since recovery (defined as resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications) **and**
- improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath).

Persons with COVID-19 who are **asymptomatic**, meaning that they have NOT had any symptoms, will need to isolate themselves at home. They may discontinue isolation under the following conditions:

At least 10 days have passed since the date of the first positive COVID-19 diagnostic (federally approved Emergency Use Authorized molecular assay) test.

If they develop symptoms, then the strategies for discontinuing isolation for symptomatic persons (see above) should be used.

Quarantine:

There are different types of quarantines for those who are vaccinated and unvaccinated. Quarantine for individuals who are unvaccinated is different for teachers/staff versus students. There are quarantine modifications for students depending upon if the individuals involved were masked.

Close contact is defined as more than 15 minutes over a 24-hour period within 0-6 feet indoors and outdoors and also includes if you had direct physical contact with the person (ie. hugging, kissing, or playing high-contact sports together), you shared eating or drinking utensils or they sneezed or coughed nearby you, or somehow got respiratory droplets on you.

Quarantine for **vaccinated** close contacts:

Fully vaccinated students/teachers/staff do not need to quarantine if asymptomatic. They should get tested 3-5 days after the date of exposure and wear a mask in public indoor settings for 14 days after exposure or until a negative test result.

Isolate if they have tested positive for COVID-19 in the prior 10 days or are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms.

Quarantine for **unvaccinated teachers/staff** has not changed.

They must quarantine for 10-14 days following exposure. If they remain asymptomatic and test negative on day 8 or later, they may return to work after 10 days. They should continue to monitor for symptoms for the full 14 days. If symptoms develop, they should stay home and get tested ASAP.

Quarantine for **unvaccinated student** for exposures when both parties were wearing a mask:

When both parties were wearing a mask in any school setting in which students are supervised by school staff (including indoor or outdoor school settings), unvaccinated students who are close contacts may undergo a *modified quarantine* as follows. They may continue to attend school for in-person instruction if they:

- i. test 2x per week (ideally 3 or more days apart)
- ii. must quarantine from all extra-curricular activities for 10 days after exposure
- iii. wear masks outdoors
- iv. monitor for symptoms for full 14 days after exposure

Quarantine for **unvaccinated student** close contacts who were not wearing masks or for whom the *infected individual was not wearing a mask during the indoor exposure*; or unvaccinated students as described above.

a. For these contacts, those who remain asymptomatic, meaning they have NOT had any symptoms, may discontinue self-quarantine under the following conditions:

- i. Quarantine can end after Day 10 from the date of last exposure without testing; **OR**
- ii. Quarantine can end after Day 7 if a diagnostic specimen is collected after Day 5 from the date of last exposure and tests negative.

b. To discontinue quarantine before 14 days following last known exposure, *asymptomatic* close contacts must:

- i. Continue daily self-monitoring for symptoms through Day 14 from last known exposure; **AND**
- ii. Follow all recommended non-pharmaceutical interventions (e.g., wearing a mask when around others, hand washing, avoiding crowds) through Day 14 from last known exposure.

c. If any symptoms develop during this 14-day period, the exposed person must immediately isolate, get tested and contact their healthcare provider with any questions regarding their care.

Summerfield makes it possible for employees and students who are sick or who have recently had close contact with a person with COVID-19 to stay home, including when a member of a student's household has been sick with COVID-19. We have revised and extended our illness policies to require sick employees and students to stay at home without fear of reprisal, and will continue to communicate with employees, students, and students' families to be aware of these policies.

The school will be screening testing if there is increasing or substantial or high COVID-19 transmission within the school or our surrounding community. Faculty and staff will be tested weekly or prove vaccination. We will follow Cal/OSHA and County Public Health Guidelines concerning screening testing.

Daily Health Screenings, Symptoms, Travel:

Parents will complete a daily assessment of their household members and caregivers' health before coming to school. Employees and students (and their households and caregivers) who are sick, have a temperature of 100°F or greater, or who have recently been in close contact with a person with COVID-19 (taking into account student modified quarantine for close contact at school, see above) will stay home without fear of reprisal.

Parents and staff will report the reason for any absences. We also ask that parents, staff & faculty self-report illness. Any student, parent, caregiver or staff showing symptoms of COVID- 19 will leave campus or will be picked up by a parent immediately. We recommend immediate testing.

Any student who passes the morning health checks but develops symptoms during the school day will be separated from other students in the designated isolation area and guardians will be called to pick up the student immediately.

Symptoms can include:

fever or chills

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

We also ask that all families follow the State and County after-travel guidelines (whichever is the more conservative approach) if they have traveled domestically or internationally for any length of time, before returning to school.

Entrance, Egress, and Movement Within the School:

How movement of students, staff, and parents will be managed to avoid unnecessary exposure.

Parents drop off and pick up from their cars, except for Early Childhood children who are walked by parents to their teacher at their specific gate. There are five different drop off areas and different paths to classrooms assigned by grade.

Parents are asked to leave campus right after they have dropped off or picked up their child(ren). We keep the number of non-essential visitors on the campus as low as possible for the health and safety of all.

Events such as class parent evenings, individual class workdays, individual family parent-teacher conferences, and class festivals or class plays will be by invitation from the teacher or Core Group, and masking, health and temperature checking guidelines will be followed.

Signs are posted in highly visible locations (e.g., school entrances, restrooms) that promote everyday protective measures and healthy hygiene (such as by properly washing hands and properly wearing a cloth face covering). Plexiglass shields have been mounted in the main school offices to add a level of protection.

Cleaning and Disinfection:

Bathrooms are cleaned after each school day, and cleaning materials are available for cleaning between uses. If a “case” has been identified, the spaces where a sick person or someone who tested positive for COVID-19 spent a large proportion of their time will be disinfected (using approved cleaning materials).

Identification and Tracing of Contacts:

Actions that staff will take when there is a confirmed case:

Multiple staff members have completed the COVID-19 Contact Tracing online course offered by John Hopkins University and are prepared to conduct contact tracing as needed should the Public Health Nurse not be available to lead those efforts.

We communicate regularly with the Public Health Nurse and the County Health Department to work through their existing protocols, as needed, identifying whether quarantine of impacted students and staff is necessary.

Our COVID-19 point of contact, Sarah Hill, our All School Receptionist, will initiate a list of the potential close contacts to any member of the community who tests positive. A close contact is defined as a person who is less than 6 feet from a case for more than 15 minutes within a 24-hour period. This may include an entire class, stable group or cohort. Sarah will communicate the possible exposure to teacher(s), staff, parent(s), guardian(s), and caregiver(s) of a case. Sarah will immediately notify the Public Health Department Disease Control Nurse.

Close contacts will be notified, advised to stay home/quarantine, and to consult with their healthcare provider for evaluation and determination if testing is recommended. The case will be contacted to help make a list of any additional potential close contacts, to help identify a support network and plan to ensure that the case will be able to self-isolate.

Class lists, seating assignments and schedules make it simple for us to report for contact tracing. These lists are kept by our registrar and updated regularly. In addition we keep attendance daily.

Staff Training and Family Education:

Faculty, staff and parents receive regular written and verbal communication outlining our illness and COVID-19 related protocols and guidelines. These includes reminders to conduct a daily household wellness check and what symptoms to look for; instructions to stay home, and for how long, if they, or a member of their household,; 1) are experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms, 2) have recently had close contact with a person who has tested positive for COVID-19, or 3) have tested positive for COVID-19; testing resources and guidelines; and travel considerations and after-travel guidelines.

Our point of contact, Sarah Hill, is available to answer any questions faculty, staff, parents and students may have about any COVID-related protocols or scenarios.

Triggers for School Closure:

The criteria the Governance Council will use to determine when to physically close the school and prohibit in-person instruction.

Increasing or substantial or high COVID-19 transmission within the school or our surrounding community. Increasing community transmission of a variant that is spread more easily among children and adolescents or is resulting in more severe illness from COVID-19 among children and adolescents. As a private school, we will follow the county schools, or as directed by Sonoma County Office of Education or Sonoma County Public Health in accordance with current protocols.

Because we are required to be masked indoors and increase ventilation of fresh outdoor air to reduce COVID transmission, the school will close if air quality reaches unhealthy levels due to Wildfire smoke or other contaminants. Young children are advised to limit outdoor activities, especially when the Air Quality Index (AQI) reaches levels considered 'Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups' (AQI 101-150) or above. See the school's Air Quality Protocol for more information.

Communication Plans:

How the school will communicate with students, staff, and parents about cases and exposures at the school, consistent with privacy requirements such as FERPA and HIPAA.

As we have done with other illnesses, we will communicate in consultation with the County Public Health Disease Control Unit and follow their guidelines for proper reporting and privacy.

Lunch and Snack:

Students will bring their own lunches and snacks. The hot lunch program will not be offered until we can find a suitable arrangement. Any snack or lunch services provided will be done within local and state guidelines.

During snack and lunch we will maximize physical distance as much as possible while eating (especially indoors). And arrange for eating outdoors as much as feasible.

Given very low risk of transmission from surfaces and shared objects, there is no need to limit food service approaches to single use items and packaged meals.

Early Childhood Education:

The Early Childhood Education (ECE) section is licensed by the Community Care Licensing Division of the California Department of Social Services. ECE classrooms function under similar guidelines as the rest of the school.

Sports:

Sports will resume with COVID protocols in place. More information in our Afterschool Sports program.

Aftercare:

We will provide aftercare following all the same guidelines as for the regular school day. Accurate lists are kept, as aftercare does create an additional stable group for students participating.

Conclusion:

While our protocols on campus will be followed - as much as reasonably possible, with differences in parts of the school or for those with medical exemptions for masks, as outlined above - the school cannot require any standard of action outside of school time. To keep our community strong, healthy and vibrant, we must all be constantly aware of others in our actions, and always keep present in our minds both our differences and that which brings us together.

State and County Guidelines and Resources:

[CDPH COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools in California](#)

[CDPH What Parents Should Know About the Updated COVID-19 School Guidance](#)
[Safe Schools for All Hub](#)

[CDPH Guidance for the Use of Face Coverings](#)

[CDC Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools](#)

[COVID-19 Case Data - Sonoma County](#)