



# GUIDELINES FOR THE 2021 - 2022 SCHOOL YEAR

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The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) released updated guidance for K-12 (K is inclusive of TK) schools reflecting recent updates from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). County health officials have confirmed that all school districts must comply with the guidance for schools included in the State Public Health Officer Order of June 11, 2021, which derives its authority from Health and Safety Codes 120125, 120140, 120175, 120195 and 131080 and other applicable laws. As a public entity, the Orange County public health order includes a similar requirement.

The Department of Catholic Schools and your school's administration will continue to monitor our state's guidance and will keep you posted on any changes that impact Catholic school operations. We will continue to follow public health and safety guidelines and uphold our bishops' commitment to the common good.

## ALL SCHOOLS MUST IMPLEMENT THE FOLLOWING:

### GENERAL

- Communicate the safety measures in place for the 2021-2022 school year with all shareholders, including a dedicated place on the school's website

### MASKING

- Students in all grade levels, K-12 (K is inclusive of TK), are required to mask indoors
- Preschool students ages 2 and up are required to mask indoors
  - See [Guidance for Child Care Providers and Programs](#) for more information
- Adults in K-12 school settings are required to mask when sharing indoor spaces with students
- Masks are optional outdoors for all in K-12 school settings
- If a student is in need of a mask, please make one available for him/her
- A student is not allowed to attend class if he/she is not wearing a mask

### PHYSICAL DISTANCING

- Physical distancing requirements are not necessary when other mitigation strategies are implemented (i.e. masking)

### QUARANTINING

- Advise staff members and students with symptoms of COVID-19 infection not to return for in-person instruction until they have met CDPH criteria to return to school for those with symptoms:
  - At least 24 hours have passed since resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications; and
  - Other symptoms have improved; and
  - They have a negative test for SARS-CoV-2, OR a healthcare provider has provided documentation that the symptoms are typical of their underlying chronic condition (e.g., allergies or asthma) OR a healthcare provider has confirmed an alternative named diagnosis (e.g., Streptococcal pharyngitis, Coxsackie virus), OR at least 10 days have passed since symptom onset
- Quarantine recommendations for: unvaccinated students for exposures when both parties were wearing a mask, as required in K-12 indoor settings. These are adapted from the CDC K-12 guidance and CDC definition of a close contact.
  - When both parties were wearing a mask in the indoor classroom setting, unvaccinated students who are close contacts (more than 15 minutes over a 24-hour

period within 0-6 feet indoors) may undergo a modified 10-day quarantine as follows. They may continue to attend school for in-person instruction if they:

- Are asymptomatic;
  - Continue to appropriately mask, as required;
  - Undergo at least twice weekly testing during the 10-day quarantine; and
  - Continue to quarantine for all extracurricular activities at school, including sports, and activities within the community setting
- Quarantine recommendations for: unvaccinated 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.
    - For these contacts, those who remain asymptomatic, meaning they have NOT had any symptoms, may discontinue self-quarantine under the following conditions:
      - Quarantine can end after Day 10 from the date of last exposure without testing; OR
      - Quarantine can end after Day 7 if a diagnostic specimen is collected after Day 5 from the date of last exposure and tests negative

### CLEANING

- Cleaning once a day is usually sufficient enough to remove potential viruses that may be on surfaces
- If a facility has had a sick person with COVID-19 within the last 24 hours, clean and disinfect the spaces occupied by that person during this time

### VISITORS

- Schools should review their rules for visitors and family engagement activities
  - All visitors to campus must be masked, regardless of vaccination status

### INSTRUCTIONAL

- Be prepared to offer alternative educational opportunities for students who are excluded from campus due to a legitimate health concern (i.e. COVID positive, or needing to quarantine)
- A student should be marked absent if he/she is not present in class or actively engaged in Distance Learning due to an appropriately documented medical reason
- Establish a plan to close school, if necessary, and quickly implement a Distance Learning program should the need arise

### RESOURCES

- **COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools in California, 2021-22 School Year:** <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/K-12-Guidance-2021-22-School-Year.aspx>
- **CDC's Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools:** <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html>
- **California's Travel Recommendations:** <https://covid19.ca.gov/travel/>