

Nord Country School

BP3050 – Health and Safety Policy for COVID-19



It is the policy of Nord Country School (“Charter School”) to take all reasonable measures to prevent the spread of the novel coronavirus disease (“COVID-19”) among students and staff. In accordance with this policy, the Charter School temporarily implements health and safety measures to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 while maintaining in person instruction for all students. This policy recognizes that these measures are each designed to provide some protection against COVID-19 and reflects modifications based on current findings regarding transmission spread. While there may be times when one measure may not be feasible, implementing the other measures can make up for the absence of another. This Policy includes both mandatory measures (using terms “shall” or “will”) as well as recommended measures intended to guide decisions in light of practical limitations.

This Policy is based on the most recent guidance provided by the Department of Education and several county public health officials. The Governor and each county public health official is vested with the authority to impose health and safety standards, which may vary by locality in response to different local conditions. Each Charter School must individually determine whether more or less stringent measures are necessary to align with the applicable public health order.

1. Campus access:

- Students excluded from campus on the basis of an elevated temperature or other COVID-19 related symptoms shall be provided with learning opportunities through paper packets to support their academic success to the greatest extent possible during exclusion.
- Any student exclusions from campus and the reasons for exclusion shall be documented and maintained in the student record.
- Students and employees who are well but who have a household member that has been diagnosed with COVID-19 are directed to notify the principal, respectively, and the Charter School will work with them to ensure that the most recent CDC-recommended precautions are followed.
- If allowed on campus, any community groups and other third-party users of campus facilities shall be subject to applicable health and safety plans and restrictions.
- Health and safety standards and procedures shall be applied equally to all users of a public school campus that is subject to a co-location arrangement.
- The Charter School will minimize close contact between students, staff, families, and the broader community at arrival and departure through one or more of the following methods:
 - While case rates are moderate to high, as reflected on the BCPH CA COVID-19 dashboard, parent drivers are encouraged to remain in their

- vehicles when dropping off or picking up students.
- Require adults entering campus for in-person pick-up or drop-off to wear a face covering.
- Provide supervision to disperse student gatherings during school arrival and departure.

2. Wellness Checks and Temperature Screenings:

- *COVID-19 Symptoms.* Currently, the CDC has identified the following as potential symptoms of COVID-19:
 - 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
- *Home Screening (Students).* Parents shall be instructed to screen their student before leaving the house for school. Before leaving the house, a parent should confirm that the student has a temperature below 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit and does not exhibit any other COVID-19 symptoms.
 - Any student who has a fever or other COVID-19 symptoms must stay home from school for at least 10 days after the onset of symptoms, or such period as required by local health order or directive.
- *Home Screening (Staff).* All employees who report to work (in-person) are required to perform a self-administered wellness check for COVID-19 symptoms before leaving home for work. Active symptom screening shall be conducted at the worksite if required by local order.
 - Any employee who has a fever of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher and/or any of the COVID symptoms is directed to notify his or her supervisor and stay home.
 - If symptoms are secondary to an underlying condition (i.e., allergies or asthma) and have not worsened, then the employee can report to work and follow hygiene practices.
- *Campus Screening (Visitors).* Each visitor to the school site shall be screened for COVID-19 symptoms before entering the school site.
 - The staff member who greets the visitor at the entrance shall administer an in-person wellness check prior to escorting the visitor to his or her destination:
 - If the visitor answers “no” to all questions, he or she may enter the school.
 - If the visitor answers “yes” to any of the questions, he or she may

not enter the school.

- To prevent stigma and discrimination in the school setting, student adult and employee health screenings should be kept as private as possible to maintain the confidentiality of student and employee medical and student records. Race, nationality and country of origin should never be used as a basis for particularized health screening.
- Consult the local county health order to determine whether temperature checks are required.

3. COVID-19 testing and reporting:

- Provided that doing so is supported by a local public health order, the Charter School expects students and staff to get tested as soon as possible after developing one or more COVID-19 symptoms or if one or more household members or close contacts tested positive for COVID-19.
- In the event of a positive test result:
 - The Charter School requires that parents/guardians and staff notify school administration immediately if the student or staff tested positive for COVID-19 or if one of their household members or non-household close contacts tested positive for COVID-19.
 - Upon receiving notification that staff or a student has tested positive for COVID-19 or been in close contact with a COVID-19 case, the Charter School will take actions as required in Section 4 below.
- Follow the process set forth in Section 4 upon receipt of test results.

4. Response to suspected or confirmed cases and close contacts:

- In the event of a suspected COVID-19 case(s):
 - The Charter School will identify isolation rooms and/or outdoor areas to separate anyone who exhibits COVID-19 symptoms.
 - Any students or staff exhibiting symptoms should immediately be required to wear a face covering and wait in a separate isolation area until they can be transported home or to a healthcare facility, as soon as practicable. For serious illness, call 9-1-1 without delay.
- In the event of a confirmed COVID-19 case(s):
 - The Charter School will notify the county public health department immediately by calling 530.552.3050.
 - The Charter School will notify all staff and families in the cohort of any positive COVID-19 case while maintaining confidentiality as required by state and federal laws.
 - Close off areas used by any sick person and do not use before cleaning and disinfection. Follow cleaning and ventilation procedures in Section 6 and 7.
 - For elementary schools and other settings in which stable classroom cohorts have been maintained: All students and staff may be instructed to get COVID-19 testing and told to remain quarantined at home for 10 days from

symptom onset date or, if asymptomatic, for 10 days from specimen collection date.

- For middle schools/junior high schools, high schools, and any settings in which stable classroom cohorts have NOT been maintained: Utilize class seating rosters and consultation with teachers/staff to identify close contacts to the confirmed COVID-19 case in all classrooms and on-campus activities. A close contact is someone who has been within six feet of the case for a prolonged period of time (at least 10-15 minutes) regardless of face covering use. Close contacts may be instructed to get COVID-19 testing and should remain quarantined at home for 10 days from symptom onset date or, if asymptomatic, for 10 days from specimen collection date.
- For all settings: Provide information regarding close contacts to the county public health department via secure fax or email.
- Close contacts to confirmed COVID-19 case(s):
 - Close contacts (non-household) of confirmed COVID-19 cases should be sent home immediately. Student or staff should remain in quarantine for a full 10 days after the date of last exposure to COVID-19 positive non-household contact. Testing is recommended 5-7 days from last exposure (but will not shorten 10 day exclusion if negative).
 - Close contacts (household) of confirmed COVID-19 cases should be sent home immediately. If a family member or household member receives a positive COVID-19 test result the student(s) should not attend school and should quarantine until:
 - At least 10 days since family/household member's symptoms first appeared (or positive test result date) **AND** an additional 10 days (for students who do not develop symptoms) after the positive family/household member is released from isolation.
 - No actions need to be taken for persons who have not had direct contact with a confirmed COVID-19 case, and instead have had close contact with persons who were in direct contact.
 - Those who test positive should not return until they have met county health department criteria to discontinue home isolation.
- Returning to school after home isolation:
 - Symptomatic individuals who test negative for COVID-19 can return 72 hours after resolution of fever (if any) and improvement in symptoms.
 - In lieu of a negative test result, students and staff may return to work 24 hours after resolution of symptoms with a medical note by a physician that provides alternative explanation for symptoms and reason for not ordering COVID-19 testing.
 - Symptomatic individuals who test positive for COVID-19 will not return to work until **ALL** of the following have occurred:
 - At least 24 hours have passed since a fever of 100.4 or higher has resolved without the use of fever-reducing medications
 - COVID-19 symptoms have improved
 - At least 10 days have passed since the date of specimen collection of their first positive COVID-19 test.

- Asymptomatic individuals who test positive for COVID-19 can return 10 days after their specimen collection date.
- If they test positive, close contacts to confirmed COVID-19 cases can return after completing the required isolation period described above.

5. Sanitizing/hygiene materials and practices:

- The Charter School will develop routines to ensure that students and staff wash or sanitize hands frequently throughout the day, including prior to arrival to campus, after using the restroom, before and after eating, after handling garbage, and after coughing or sneezing.
- Staff will teach and reinforce proper handwashing technique, avoiding contact with one's eyes, nose, and mouth, and covering coughs and sneezes.
- The Charter School shall make soap, tissues, no-touch trashcans, face coverings, water and paper towels or dryers for hand washing available. If soap and water are not readily available, the Charter School shall make available alcohol-based hand sanitizer that is at least sixty percent (60%) ethyl alcohol.
- The Charter School shall place posters conspicuously that encourage hand hygiene to help stop the spread of COVID-19.
Employees should visit the CDC's coughing and sneezing etiquette and clean hands webpage for more information.

6. Routine cleaning and disinfecting: The Charter School will incorporate the CDC Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfecting to maintain a high level of cleanliness throughout the year and reduce the risk of exposure to and spread of COVID-19 at the school site.

- Custodial staff may perform routine cleaning when students are not present.
- All frequently touched surfaces in the workplace, such as desks, keyboards, telephones, handrails, and doorknobs, will be routinely disinfected once daily.
- Employees are discouraged from sharing desks, computers, books, phones, or other work tools and equipment, when possible.
- Staff will be trained in the safe and correct application of cleaning and disinfectant agents in accordance with the Healthy Schools Act guidance from the California Department of Pesticide Regulation and Cal/OSHA.
- Subject to available resources, disposable disinfecting wipes shall be made available so that employees can wipe down commonly used surfaces (e.g., doorknobs, keyboards, remote controls, desks, other work tools and equipment) before each use.
- Students are encouraged to take belongings home each day to be cleaned.

7. Facility measures: The Charter School will incorporate CDE guidance for maintaining a healthy facility.

- Maintenance staff will ensure that ventilation systems and fans operate properly and increase circulation of outdoor air as much as possible by opening windows and doors and other methods.
 - Windows and doors should not be opened if doing so poses a safety or health risk by exacerbating seasonal allergies or asthma symptoms.
 - Maintenance staff will ensure that all water systems and features (e.g., drinking fountains) are safe to use after a prolonged facility shutdown to minimize the risk of Legionnaires' disease and other diseases associated with water.
 - If possible, suspend or modify use of site resources that necessitate sharing or touching items. For example, consider suspending use of drinking fountains and installing hydration stations; encourage the use of reusable water bottles.
 - Consider installing additional temporary handwashing stations at all school entrances and near classrooms to minimize movement and congregation in bathrooms.
8. Use of cloth face masks: The Charter School shall follow CDPH guidance and state and local health orders on the use of face coverings. All staff are encouraged to review the CDPH guidance on cloth face coverings.
- Until such time as the statewide order is lifted, all adults must wear a cloth face covering at all times while inside a school building except while eating or drinking.
 - Staff excluded from this requirement are those that require respiratory protection according to Cal/OSHA standards.
 - Employees should wear a clean face mask to work every day.
 - Teachers may use clear plastic face shields with an appropriate drape (cloth covering extending from the bottom edge of the shield in certain limited situations to enable students to see their faces and avoid potential barriers to phonological instruction.
 - All students who are not prevented from doing so by a breathing problem or disability should wear a clean cloth face covering:
 - While indoors
 - While riding on a school bus.
 - Students exempted from face covering requirements include: (1) anyone who has trouble breathing or is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the covering without assistance and (2) students with special needs who are unable to tolerate a face covering.
 - The Charter School shall educate students, particularly younger elementary school students, on the rationale and proper use of face coverings.
 - If a student or staff experiences difficulty wearing his/her face covering, allow the individual to remove his/her face covering for a short period of time.
 - The Charter School will provide face coverings for students and staff who lose their face coverings or forget to bring them to school.
 - Students may be exempted from wearing a mask if a medical exemption form is filled out by a licensed medical professional. This form is available in the office.

9. Use of gloves and PPE: When mandated, the Charter School requires employees to wear gloves and other Personal Protective Equipment (“PPE”) in accordance with the following standards.

- The Charter School will provide surgical masks, face shields, and disposable gloves for employees engaging in Wellness and Temperature Screenings.
- The Charter School will provide a clear plastic barrier or face covering and disposable gloves for front office and food service employees.
- The Charter School will provide equipment and PPE to custodial staff for cleaning and disinfecting, including:
 - For regular surface cleaning, gloves appropriate for all cleaning and disinfecting.
 - For classified staff engaged in deep cleaning and disinfecting, proper PPE for COVID-19 disinfection (disposable gown, gloves, eye protection, and mask or respirator) in addition to PPE as required by product instructions.
 - All cleaning and disinfecting products must be kept out of children’s reach and stored in a space with restricted access.
- As required by Cal/OSHA, the Charter School will provide training on the proper use of PPE to protect employees from the hazards of the cleaning products used.
- Employees must wash hands after removing gloves.

10. Protection of higher risk employees:

- The Charter School recognizes that older adults and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions are at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19.¹
- The Charter School will designate a staff liaison for responding to COVID-19 concerns.
- Consistent with operational needs, the Charter School shall support options to telework, if available and reasonable.
- The Charter School shall attempt to limit vulnerable employees’ duties to minimize their contact with visitors and other employees.

11. Communications to the Charter School community:

- The Charter School will engage with families and staff to develop strategies to prepare and respond to the COVID-19 emergency, including guidelines for families about when to keep students home from school and other topics.
- Prior to the start of the school year, the Charter School will communicate to staff, students, and parents about new, COVID-19-related protocols, including
 - Physical distancing requirements and recommendations
 - Proper use of facemasks and PPE/EPG.

¹ This includes employees with any one or more of the following high risk factors: age 65 years and older, chronic lung disease, moderate to severe asthma, serious heart conditions, immune deficiency, severe obesity (body mass index of 40 or higher), diabetes, chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis, or liver disease.

- Cleanliness and disinfection.
- Transmission prevention.
- Guidelines for families about when to keep students home from school.
- Systems for self-reporting symptoms.
- Criteria and plan to close schools again for physical attendance of students.
- The Charter School will train staff and students on protocols for physical distancing for both indoor and outdoor spaces.
- Communications will be targeted to the most vulnerable members of the Charter School community.
- The Charter School will develop a communications plan for implementation if the school has a positive COVID-19 case in accordance with CDE guidelines.

The Principal/Superintendent or designee is authorized to implement changes or additions to this policy in order to ensure compliance or consistency with new or revised orders or guidance from local, county, state or federal authorities (“Agencies”), to take any and all actions consistent with orders and guidance from the Agencies that is not specifically addressed by this policy, and to ensure compliance with the Charter School’s charter petition. The Principal/Superintendent or designee shall provide the Board with regular updates as to actions taken pursuant to this section.

12. Adoption and Review:

15.1 Originally Adopted: August 12, 2020

15.2 Most Recent Amendment: August 11, 2021