



# Nord Country School COVID-19 Safety Plan 2022-2023

Our staff and School Board have worked to develop this plan to ensure the sustainability of in-person instruction in light of the dynamic and unpredictable impact that COVID-19 may have on our school community. This plan is amended to reflect the July 1, 2022 guidelines distributed by the California Public Health Department. This plan is based on the information we have today and may need to be modified if new directives are received. Keeping our students, staff, and families safe during this time is a top priority for Nord Country School, and the main way that administration will ensure this is by keeping updated on local transmission rates, communicating with state and county health officials, and acting swiftly and efficiently as situations arise.

Nord Country School's Administrative staff will serve as a liaison between families and BCPH. Administrators will communicate to community members in a broad fashion regarding the school protocols, and will communicate with individual families when deemed necessary. All stakeholders will be made aware of updated guidelines and recommendations that are housed on the homepage of our website under "COVID-19 RESOURCES." We will follow all HIPPA and FERPA guidelines for confidentiality.

## General Measures

- We have established and will maintain direct contact with Butte County Public Health (BCPH), Butte County Office of Education (BCOE), and California Department of Public Health (CDPH) during this pandemic to remain up-to-date with the latest information.
- This plan will be reviewed and updated as needed to match the changing needs of this unprecedented situation.
- Our campus will be evaluated and inspected weekly for compliance with this document, board policy and the current guidelines.
- Administrative staff will regularly review updated guidance from the state including the California Department of Public Health and the California Department of Education, and communicate findings and/or changes to staff and the wider school community
- Nord Country School will update their Injury and Illness Prevention policy (IIPP) to address mitigation of the the transmission of COVID-19 as well as other transmissible diseases..

## Promoting Healthy Hygiene Practices

- The best way to prevent illness is to avoid viral exposure. The following actions will help prevent the spread of the illness:
  - We will teach and reinforce washing hands, avoiding contact with one's eyes, nose and mouth, and covering coughs and sneezes among students and staff. This includes:
    - Teaching students and reminding staff to use tissue to wipe their nose and to cough/sneeze into a tissue or their elbow;
    - Students and staff washing their hands frequently throughout the day for at least twenty seconds with soap, including before and after eating; after coughing or sneezing; after classes where they handle shared items, such as outside recreation or art; and before and after using the restroom;
    - Staff modeling and practicing handwashing;
    - Ensuring only fragrance-free hand sanitizers with at least 60% ethyl alcohol will be used by staff and students when handwashing is not practicable. Sanitizer must be rubbed into hands until completely dry. Hand sanitizer will be made available in each classroom and in all common areas;
      - Children under age 9 will only use hand sanitizer under adult supervision;
    - Ensuring adequate supplies to support healthy hygiene behaviors, including soap, tissues, and face coverings, when a student requests one.
- Outdoor hand washing stations have been strategically placed around campus and students have been trained in their use.
- Handwashing signage has been put up in all classrooms and inside and outside of bathrooms.

## Protective Equipment

### Face Coverings

- No person will be prevented from wearing a mask, unless wearing a mask would pose a safety hazard (e.g. watersports or heavy exercise);
- If a student or staff member would like to wear a mask but inadvertently fails to bring one, masks will be available for use in all classrooms upon request.

### Arrival and Departure

- Parents will understand that they are to screen their child for flu-like symptoms or signs of illness before students are dropped off at school.
- Parent volunteers are permitted to participate in service on campus and in classrooms, but must also screen for flu-like symptoms and fever before reporting for service.
- Daily end times are staggered to alleviate congestion in the front of the school.
  - Kindergarten - 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students are dismissed at 2:30
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> grade students are dismissed at 2:45
  - 6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> grade students are dismissed at 3:00

## Classrooms

- Staff will continue to remind students to practice proper hygiene, regular handwashing, covering mouth with elbow when sneezing or coughing;
- Staff will monitor students for flu-like symptoms, and ensure that students are sent to the office if they are experiencing a fever;
- Kleenex, hand sanitizer, and hand-soap will be provided to all students in each classroom for routine handwashing before meals and after recess and/or bathroom breaks;

Classroom areas will be routinely cleaned.

## Non-Classroom Areas

- Outside seating for lunch when possible.
- Hand sanitizer will be available in the cafeteria, outside dining patios, and the Office.
- Re-fillable water stations are provided for student and staff use. Students will need to bring a refillable water bottle with them to school each day for both classroom use and PE use.

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## School-wide or Community Events

When community transition rates necessitate added measure to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 or other transmissible diseases, school-wide event coordinators will refer to the “Event Planning and Playbook” publication to ensure safety of all attendees:

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/CDPH%20Document%20Library/COVID-19/Events-Playbook.pdf>

## Cleaning, Disinfecting and Ventilation

- Cleaning and disinfecting supplies will be approved for COVID-19 use and listed on the [Environmental Protection Agency Approved List](#).
- All areas of the campus will be routinely cleaned and disinfected..
- Frequently touched surfaces (doorknobs, light switches, sink handles, bathrooms surfaces, etc.) will be regularly cleaned and disinfected..
- Each classroom will have a supply of appropriate cleaning and disinfecting supplies.
- Portable, high efficiency air purifiers have been added to each classroom and the cafeteria, office, and staff room. Filters are changed on a schedule that maximizes their effectiveness, no longer than every five months.
- Ventilation will be maximized in the classrooms to the extent possible by opening windows and doors where practical.
- Special filters with a rating of MERV 11 or better will be installed in all HVAC systems to provide enhanced filtration.

- In order to allow for ventilation on school buses, we will use open windows as much as possible to improve airflow.
- Chromebooks will be assigned to individual students so that they are not shared.

## **Training and Educating All Staff and Families**

- Staff, students and parents will be encouraged to understand the importance of protecting from the spread of COVID-19 for the safety of the community as well as the continued in person operation of the school.
- All staff will continue to emphasize:
  - Cleaning and disinfecting practices
  - Proper screening practices and their importance
  - How COVID is spread, its symptoms identification, and when to seek medical attention;
  - Screening their own health conditions and knowing the importance of not coming to work when they have symptoms.
  - Current best practices from county and state health officials;
  - The plan and procedures to follow when staff or students become sick at school;
  - Application and enforcement of the plan.
- Prior to school starting, all families received information posted on the website about:
  - How COVID is spread and its symptoms
  - Proper screening practices and their importance
  - The application and enforcement of the school safety plan to mitigate the spread of COVID-19;
  - Testing and contact training requirements.
- During the three weeks of school, as well as regularly throughout the year as necessary, school students will received direct instruction from teachers on the importance and proper techniques of hand washing, using hand sanitizer, and coughing and sneezing into elbow or tissue.
- Any families and/or employees that are new to Nord Country School will receive training upon joining our school community.

## **Screening for Signs and Symptoms**

### **Students**

- All students will be treated with respect and care, regardless of the diagnosis of, or exposure to, COVID-19.
- All students who exhibit symptoms will need to notify the school and stay home.
- Through email communication, the school will ensure that parents know to screen their children for any COVID-19 symptoms within the last 24 hours, if they have been in close contact with any person with a positive COVID-19 test (close contact is defined as contact within 6 feet for greater

than 15 minutes) and whether any one in their home has had COVID-19 symptoms or a positive COVID-19 test. Symptoms include:

- Fever or chills
  - Cough
  - Shortness of breath
  - Muscle pain or body aches
  - Headache
  - Sore throat
  - Fatigue
  - Congestion or runny nose
  - Nausea or vomiting
  - Diarrhea
  - New loss of taste or smell.
- If a student has any symptoms they will be asked to stay home until at least 24 hours after they no longer have a fever (temperature of 100.4 or higher) or signs of a fever (chills, flushed appearance or sweating) without the use of fever-reducing medicine (e.g., Tylenol).
  - Nord Country School will follow all Butte County Public Health and Butte County Office of Education guidelines if a staff member or student is diagnosed with, or exposed to, COVID-19.

## Staff

- Staff members will be provided with the list of COVID-19 symptoms.
- All staff will be asked to self-monitor for signs of infectious illness every day and conduct a temperature check at home before arriving at school and throughout the day.
- If a staff member has any symptoms, they will be instructed to stay home until at least 24 hours after they no longer have a fever (temperature of 100.4 or higher) or signs of a fever (chills, flushed appearance or sweating) without the use of fever-reducing medicine (e.g., Tylenol).
- We will document/track incidents of possible school exposure. If there is reasonable evidence that the local school community has had a spike in COVID-19 cases, broad communication will be sent to the families and staff. More specific contact/group tracing measures will be implemented if local health officials recommend these actions. All necessary reporting to local health officials will be kept confidential, as required under FERPA and state law related to privacy of educational records.

## **Plan for Testing Staff and/or When a Student, Staff Member or Visitor Becomes Sick or has had Contact with a Person with COVID-19**

- We will educate our staff and families about the availability of both symptomatic and asymptomatic testing in our area.

- Staff and students will stay home if they have recently had contact with a person with COVID-19.
- If already on campus, any student or staff member with a fever of 100.4° or more, a persistent cough, or other COVID-19 symptoms will be encouraged to wear a face mask, and wait in an area where social distancing is possible for a ride home.
- If we become aware that a student or staff member is COVID-19 positive, we will send a broad communication to the parties impacted, and remind them of the recommended expectations listed in our Updated School Opening & Safety Plan, revised on August 18, 2022.
- We will provide online learning opportunities or paper packets to student if they must miss school due to COVID-19.

	Students or Staff with:	Recommended Action
1	COVID-19 symptoms (e.g., fever, cough, loss of taste or smell, difficulty breathing)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Send home if at school,</li> <li>• Recommend testing (If positive, see #3, if negative, see #4).</li> <li>• School/classroom remains open</li> </ul>
2	Close contact with a confirmed COVID-19 case	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Test within 3-5 days after last exposure.</li> <li>• Per CDPH masking guidance, close contacts should wear a well-fitting mask around others for a total of 10 days, especially in indoor settings and when near those at higher risk for severe COVID-19 disease (see masking section below for additional information).</li> <li>• Strongly encouraged to get vaccinated or boosted.</li> <li>• If symptoms develop, test and stay home (see earlier section on symptomatic persons), AND</li> <li>• If test result is positive, follow isolation recommendations above (Table 1). School remains open</li> </ul>
3	Confirmed COVID-19 case	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stay home for at least 5 days after start of symptoms (or after date of first positive test if no symptoms).</li> <li>• Isolation can end after Day 5 if symptoms are not present or are resolving and a diagnostic specimen* collected on Day 5 or later tests negative.</li> <li>• If unable to test, choosing not to test, or testing positive on Day 5 (or later), isolation can end after Day 10 if fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications.</li> <li>• If fever is present, isolation should be continued until 24 hours after fever resolves.</li> <li>• If symptoms, other than fever, are not resolving, continue to isolate until symptoms are resolving or until after Day 10. If symptoms are severe, or if the infected person is at high risk of serious disease, or if they have questions concerning care, infected persons should contact their healthcare provider for available treatments.</li> <li>• Per CDPH masking guidance, infected persons should wear a well-fitting mask around others for a total of 10 days, especially</li> </ul>

		in indoor settings (see masking section below for additional information).
		*Antigen test preferred.
4	Symptomatic person tests negative or a healthcare provider has provided documentation that the symptoms are typical of their underlying chronic condition.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May return to school after 24 hours have passed without fever and symptoms have started improving.</li> <li>• School/classroom remains open</li> </ul>

- We will adhere to the required reporting requirements Of local public health authorities at the BCPH.

## Sustaining in-person Instruction

Similar to local and state public health officials, Nord Country School recognizes the importance of maintaining in-person instruction, as research points to the understanding that the social, emotional, physical, and academic well-being of many young learners is directly impacted by their ability to have live, in-person, classroom-based instruction. Nord Country School is committed to sustaining in-person instruction. COVID-19 is here to stay. With combined levels of vaccinated individuals, mitigation strategies, and sound communication, it is the school’s intention to continue to offer this model.

## Communication Plans

- We have designated our school Administrators, as the liaisons responsible for responding to COVID-19 concerns. The Administrator will be trained to communicate effectively with the school community so that there is transparency in regards to increases in positive COVID-19 cases, in addition to the transmission of other communicable diseases.
- We will notify local health officials immediately of any positive case of COVID19 as required by state and federal laws.
- Student and staff absenteeism will be monitored.
- The school will make phone calls and use the email/text messaging system set up in School Wise to communicate with staff and families regarding potential Impact that new cases are having on all Nord Country School students.
- We will provide guidance to both parents and staff reminding them of the importance of being careful and aware of responsible behavior that mitigates the spread of COVID-19 and other transmissible diseases both on and off campus.

- Maintain communication systems with the local public health department that allow staff and families to stay informed if there are sudden shifts in the plan that reflects the CDPH July 1, 2022 guidance, and that honors requirements put forth by FERPA and state law related to privacy of educational records.
- We will support students whose health needs necessitate independent study due to quarantining or illness which requires that they be out of the classroom.