



Nord Country School COVID-19 Opening and Safety Plan 2021-2022

Our staff and School Board have worked to develop this plan for maintaining safe, in-person instruction. Recent evidence indicates that in-person instruction can occur safely without minimum physical distancing requirements when other mitigation strategies (e.g., masking) are implemented

It has been based on current guidelines distributed by the California Public Health Department and the Butte County Public Health Department. These plans are based on the information we have today and may need to be modified if we receive any new directives from these organizations. Keeping our students, staff, and families safe during this unsettled time is a top priority for Nord Country School.

CDC explained that schools have a mixed population with people who are both vaccinated and not. Administrators need to plan to protect everyone with layered prevention strategies. All state and local masking and quarantining requirements referred to throughout this document will be adhered to until no longer required. Administration has the authority and flexibility to change/modify school requirements when changed at the state or local level.

Kathy Dahlgren, Nord Country School's Administrator, will be the staff liaison between families and BCPH. She will be in regular contact with families and staff who have possibly been exposed, keeping record of whether they have been tested or are self-isolating. 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 (at least every six months) to match the changing needs during the pandemic.
- Our campus will be evaluated and inspected weekly for compliance with this document, board policy, and the current guidelines.

- Staff will regularly review updated guidance from the state including the California Department of Public Health and the California Department of Education.
- Nord Country School has updated their Injury and Illness Prevention policy (IIPP) to address the unique circumstances during the COVID-19 crisis.

Safety Measures

Masks

- Face masks will be worn by all students and staff while indoors, as required by state or local guidelines.
- If a student or staff member is medically exempt from wearing a mask they will be required to wear a face shield.
- Teachers will reinforce and teach the students in the proper use of facemasks, including not touching the face, washing hands after repositioning the mask, and proper placement of the mask.
- The CDPH guidance on face coverings will be distributed to both staff and families.
- Staff will do their best to ensure that students are masked indoors by using positive reinforcements and age appropriate consequences. If repeated warnings are given in a day, or a student struggles to comply with our mask policy, the student will be referred to the Administrator.
 - An example could be
 - First, a reminder will be given to put on a mask;
 - After a second time, a reminder/warning will be given;
 - After a third time, a note will go home or a phone call will be made explaining the importance of masking in order to continue with on-campus learning;
 - If necessary, a meeting with the family and the Administrator will be arranged to discuss our policy and/or discuss the possibility of an alternative setting (e.g., independent study).
- Nord Country School will provide masks should an employee or student need one.
- All staff must use face coverings while indoors and students are present.
- In limited situations where a face covering cannot be used, a face shield with a drape (per CDPH guidelines) can be used instead of a face covering as long as the wearer maintains physical distance from others.
- Staff handling or serving food must use gloves in addition to face coverings.

Storage of Student Face Coverings

- Student face covering or face shields will be removed during meals, snacks, outside activities, and when it needs to be replaced.

Other Protective Equipment

- We will provide custodial staff the necessary personal protective equipment for cleaning and disinfecting.
- We will ensure adequate PPE supplies are maintained at all times for students and staff

Promoting Healthy Hygiene Practices

- The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to the virus. 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 20 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 hand washing.
 - Ensuring only fragrance-free hand sanitizers with at least 60% ethyl alcohol will be used by staff and students when hand washing 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.
 - Outdoor hand washing stations have been strategically placed around campus and students have been trained in their use.
 - Hand washing signage has been put up in all classrooms and inside and outside of bathrooms.

Before and After School

- On the bus or van, ventilation will be maximized to the greatest extent possible and masks must be worn if required by state or local guidelines. Extra unused face coverings will be available for students who may have inadvertently failed to bring one.
- Daily end times are staggered to alleviate congestion in the front of the school and students will be asked to leave through the same gate they used in the mornings.
 - Kindergarten - 2nd grade students are dismissed at 2:30
 - 3rd - 5th grade students are dismissed at 2:45
 - 6th - 8th grade students are dismissed at 3:00
- Teacher and other staff desks will be spaced from student desks as much as practicable

- When transmission rates are NOT high, parent volunteers will be allowed to help in classrooms as long as they wear a mask if required by state and local guidelines.

Non-Classroom Areas

- Outside seating for lunch will be used when possible. Students will be spaced as much as possible when seating inside the cafeteria
- Hand sanitizer will be available in the cafeteria, outside dining patios, and the Office.
- The Lunch Server will wear a mask and gloves to serve food to the students.
- Students and/or guests in the office will be limited to the extent practicable.

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 cleaned and disinfected at the end of each school day.
- 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.
- 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.
- Textbooks will be assigned to students, stored in their personal desks and not shared.
- 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 themselves from the spread of COVID-19 for the safety of the community as well as the continued in person operation of the school.
- During staff meetings, all staff will be trained in:
 - Cleaning and disinfecting practices
 - Proper screening practices and their importance
 - How COVID is spread and its symptoms identification and when to seek medical attention
 - Proper use, removal, and washing of face coverings
 - Screening their own health conditions and knowing the importance of not coming to work when they have symptoms.
 - Testing and contact tracing requirements
 - 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 will receive information through email and newsletters on:
 - How COVID is spread and its symptoms
 - Proper screening practices and their importance
 - Proper use, removal, and washing of face coverings
 - Drop-off and pick-up procedures for before and after school
 - The application and enforcement of the plan
 - Testing and contact tracing requirements
- On the first day of school students will receive direct instruction from teachers on the importance and proper techniques of hand washing, wearing a mask, 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.
- We provided information to all staff members and families regarding proper use and removal of face coverings as indicated through the following CDC website:
 - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/how-to-wear-cloth-face-coverings.html>

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.
- 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 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.
- 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).
- When systems exist, testing for COVID-19 is recommended.
- We will document/track incidents of possible exposure and notify local health officials, staff and families immediately of any positive case of COVID-19 while maintaining confidentiality, as required under FERPA and state law related to privacy of educational records.

See https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/end-home-isolation.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%wF%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronaviurs%2F2018-ncov%2prevent-getting-sick%2when=its-safe.html

When a Student, Staff Member or Visitor Becomes Sick or has 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 required to wear a face mask, wait in an isolation room for a ride (if student) and be sent home. The cohort will remain at school for instruction.
- If we become aware that a student or staff member is COVID-19 positive, we will do the following:
 - Notify staff and family members in person or on the phone (while maintaining confidentiality as per FERPA and state law related to privacy of education records)
 - Notify local health officials through the county “Spot” website
 - Document/track incidents of possible exposure
 - ☉ Clean and disinfect all areas that the person has occupied.
- We will provide learning opportunities in the form of paper packets to student while they are away from school due to COVID-19.
- Any area used by any individual suspected of being infected with the virus that causes COVID-19 be cleaned and disinfected.
- We will advise sick staff members and students who have been absent from school due to COVID-19 to follow isolate protocols listed below.
- We will adhere to the required reporting requirements and notify BCPH of any newly reported case of COVID-19.

Student Positive Cases

Persons who Test Positive for COVID-19 (isolation)	Recommended Action
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<p>Everyone, regardless of vaccination status, previous infection or lack of symptoms</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Stay Home for at least 5 days ● Isolation can end after day 5 if symptoms are not present or are resolving AND diagnostic specimen* collected on day 5 or later tests negative. ● If unable to test or choosing not to test, and symptoms are not present or are resolving, isolation can end after day 10. ● If fever is present, isolation should be continued until fever resolves. ● If symptoms, other than fever, are not resolving continue to isolation until symptoms are resolving or until after day 10. ● Wear a well-fitting mask around others for a total of 10 days, especially in indoor settings. <p>*Antigen test preferred.</p>
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Student OFF-CAMPUS Exposure Guidelines

Persons Who are Exposed to Someone with COVID-19 (Quarantine)	Recommended Action
Unvaccinated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Quarantine can end after day 5** if symptoms are not present AND a diagnostic specimen collected on day 5 or later tests negative. If unable to test or choosing not to test, and symptoms are not present, quarantine can end after day 10.

Persons Who are Exposed to Someone with COVID-19 (No Quarantine)	Recommended Action
Vaccinated – completed primary series of COVID 19 vaccine OR Previously infected with COVID-19 within the last 90 days	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Quarantine is not recommended. Students without symptoms may remain in school and participate in all school activities ● If symptoms develop, they should test and stay home

****Family/household exposures will need a longer quarantine if isolation is not possible**

Communication Plans

- We have designated our school Administrator, Kathy Dahlgren, as the liaison responsible for responding to COVID-19 concerns. The Administrator will be trained to coordinate the documentation and tracking of possible exposure, in order to notify local health officials, staff and families in a prompt and responsible manner.
- We will notify local health officials immediately of any positive case of COVID19, and exposed staff and families as relevant while maintaining confidentiality 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 school exposures, closures or changes to our schedule.
- We will support students who are at higher risk for severe illness or who cannot safely distance from household contacts at higher risk, by providing a long term independent study program.
- Safety plan will be posted on the school's website.