

**The Yolo County Office of Education COVID-19 Safety Plan (CSP) to  
Support Safe In-Person Learning for the 2022–2023 School Year**

(Adapted from: COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for K–12 Schools to Support Safe In-Person Learning, 2022–2023 School Year)

Number of Schools:	Three
Early Care Classrooms:	19
Enrollment:	K-12: 204 Early Care: 367
Superintendent:	Garth Lewis
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County:	Yolo
Grade Level:	Early Care – Adult Education
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### **Introduction**

Senate Bill No. 1479 requires each local educational agency (LEA) defined to mean a school district, county office of education, or charter school, after consulting with its local health department, to create a COVID-19 testing plan, or adopt the State Department of Public Health’s framework that is consistent with guidance from the department.

Senate Bill No. 1479 authorizes each local educational agency (LEA) to:

1. To publish the testing plan on its internet website;
2. Designate one staff member to report information on its COVID-19 testing program to the California State Department of Public Health;
3. Require that all COVID-19 testing data be in a format that facilitates an effortless process by which parents and LEAs may report data to the CDPH or local health department;
4. Determine which COVID-19 tests are appropriate for the testing program; and
5. Seek reimbursement for certain costs mandated by the state. (Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.)

The guidelines listed herein are intended to support safe in-person learning in Yolo County Office of Education (YCOE) schools and mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Disease management strategies in YCOE schools are guided by the principle that safe in-person learning is critical to student well-being and development.

Health professionals have learned methods and learned techniques to decrease its impact on our health and well-being. YCOE schools can manage this disease in sustainable and adaptive manners. In alignment with the state's [SMARTER](#) plan, California will continue to provide resources—including COVID-19 tests and personal protective equipment—to support these goals and prevent broad disruption to in-person learning.

Additionally, many of the strategies used to address COVID-19 can protect school communities from other diseases and support healthy learning environments. In alignment with the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) guidance](#), YCOE schools should consider some of the approaches described herein as potential methods to also safeguard students and staff from other airborne pathogens, allergens, and pollutants (e.g., wildfire smoke).

The guidance is based on current scientific knowledge and anticipated trends. It is subject to change, as COVID-19 conditions can shift rapidly. As a result, YCOE's response(s) must remain nimble and responsive to dynamic challenges. YCOE adopted the California State Department of Public Health's [testing framework](#).

### **General Considerations**

1. The guidance is effective July 1, 2022, unless otherwise stated, and will continue to be reviewed regularly by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH).
2. California affirms the authority of local health departments and local educational agencies to maintain or establish additional guidance, including required actions, for K–12 school settings in their respective jurisdictions. When making a determination of whether additional measures are warranted to mitigate in-school transmission of COVID-19, CDPH recommends local health and education officials confer and review this guidance, [relevant local considerations](#), and [CDC guidance](#).
3. In workplaces, employers are subject to the [Cal/OSHA COVID-19 Emergency Temporary Standards \(ETS\)](#) or in some workplaces the Cal/OSHA Aerosol Transmissible Diseases Standard, and should consult those regulations for additional applicable requirements.
4. When applying this guidance, consideration should be given to the direct school population and the surrounding community. Factors include:
  - CDC [community level indicators](#) of COVID-19 and their trajectory;
  - [COVID-19 vaccination coverage](#) in the community and among students, teachers, and staff;
  - Local COVID-19 outbreaks or transmission patterns;
  - Indoor air quality at relevant facilities;
  - Availability and accessibility of resources, including masks and tests;
  - Ability to provide therapeutics in a timely and equitable manner as they become available;
  - Equity considerations, including populations disproportionately impacted by and exposed to COVID-19;

- Local demographics, including serving specialized populations of individuals at high risk of severe disease and immunocompromised populations; and
  - Community input, including from students, families, and staff.
5. It is recommended that schools communicate with students, parents, staff, and the broader school community about the measures in place to safeguard health and well-being. This can include direct dissemination of safety plans (e.g., via email), providing information for students to take home to their families, and/or posting plans on a school's website or around campus. Communication should be cognizant of languages spoken and literacy levels of community members.

The following are the tenets for the Yolo County Office of Education COVID-19 Safety Plan (CSP). Moreover, YCOE will undertake the following prevention and mitigation strategies to prevent illness of staff and students.

### **Masks/Face Coverings**

Masks, particularly [high-quality and well-fitting masks](#), remain highly effective, inexpensive, and dynamic tools to protect oneself and mitigate transmission of COVID-19 and other respiratory pathogens. Wearing a mask will not be discouraged and no person can be prevented from wearing a mask as a condition of participation in an activity or entry into a school, unless wearing a mask would pose a safety hazard (e.g., watersports). Additionally, schools will provide masks to students when requested. Unless otherwise directed by the California Department of Public Health students or Yolo County Health Department staff should follow [CDPH masking guidance for the general public](#), as well as masking guidance for specific situations—such as, when having symptoms, being infected, or exposed.

### **Physical Distancing**

Recent evidence indicates that in-person instruction can occur safely without minimum physical distancing requirement when other mitigation strategies (e.g., masking) are implemented. This is consistent with CDC K-12 School Guidance - [Operational Guidance for K-12 Schools and Early Care and Education Programs to Support Safe In-Person Learning | CDC](#)

### **Optimizing Indoor Air Quality**

The risk of getting COVID-19 is greater in indoor settings with poor air quality. Accordingly, YCOE staff will: (1) Follow [CDPH recommendations to improve indoor air quality](#) to mitigate against COVID-19 in K–12 schools; and (2) Work to install ventilation and filtration systems that are designed to curb the spread of COVID-19 and other infectious diseases. (These air filtration systems may also protect students and staff from exposure to wildfire smoke and other airborne allergens and pollutants.)

### **Testing Protocols**

YCOE participates in the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Rapid Antigen Testing Program in which free at-home COVID-19 rapid antigen tests are available to YCOE students and staff. Students and staff exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 are required to test before returning to school/work. Test results may also be obtained through a healthcare provider.

In the event of a positive case at a school site, contact tracing efforts are in effect and immediately notify staff and student's parent/guardian(s) of exposure to COVID-19. At-home COVID-19 rapid tests are offered to staff and parent/guardians to test at home if requested.

### **Case reporting, contact tracing, and investigation**

With the sunset of AB 86 (2021), YCOE is following the guidance of the Yolo County Public Health as our local public health authority.

On November 1, a [letter from Yolo County Public Health](#) states that county public health no longer requires individual COVID-19 case reporting from child care providers and K-12 schools. Instead, child care providers and schools must report COVID-19 outbreaks to Yolo County, including, but not limited to, when 10% or more of a student cohort\* is unexpectedly absent\*\*.

The following COVID-19 requirements continue to affect K-12 schools and childcare providers:

1. K-12 schools should refer to California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 17, §2500 and §2508 for reporting guidance. Note that 17 CCR §2500 has been temporarily modified by the State Public Health Officer Order of February 10th, 2022.
2. Childcare centers and Family childcare homes should refer to the CDPH COVID-19 Guidance for Child Care Providers and Programs section "Reporting COVID-19" for additional reporting requirements.
3. As workplaces, schools and most childcare programs are subject to COVID-19 workplace outbreak reporting requirements stipulated in AB 685 and Cal/OSHA Emergency Temporary Standards.

\*Student cohort shall also include when the combined staff and student absent meets or exceed 10% of the total cohort.

\*\*Unexpected absence refers to any absences due to a potentially communicable condition where Public Health intervention may be warranted and includes but is not limited to COVID-19.

### **Managing Exposed Students without Symptoms:**

Exposed students without symptoms may remain on campus. However, it is recommended that they get tested at least once 3-5 days after exposure using the preferred COVID-19 Antigen Test. If the student tested positive in the previous 30 days, testing is not recommended. Exposed students, regardless of vaccination status, may continue to participate in all aspects of schooling, including sports and extracurricular activities, unless they develop symptoms or test positive. If exposed, it is strongly recommended that they wear a mask around others through day ten. If positive, isolate for five days and until symptoms dissipate with no fever for 24 hours. Also, the COVID-19 Antigen Test, given on day five or later, should be negative. Repeat testing is not needed to return to school after day ten. Students shall be required to wear a mask around others through day ten. See the [School Decision Tree](#) on the Yolo County Public Health website.

### **Managing Exposed Students with Symptoms:**

Staying home when sick can lower the risk of spreading infectious diseases, including COVID-19, to other people. As a result, YCOE schools will not implement policies that incentivize coming to school while sick. Further, as recommended by the California Department of Public

Health, YCOE supports the policy of any individual who develops new, unexplained symptoms should not return to campus until it is clear that symptoms are mild and improving or are due to a non-infectious cause (e.g., allergies). This includes waiting no fewer than 24 hours have passed since resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications. Students shall be required to wear a mask around others through day ten. Individuals with symptoms should also follow [CDPH recommendations](#) for retesting and/or isolating if results are positive. See the [School Decision Tree](#) on the Yolo County Public Health website.

### **Managing Students Diagnosed with COVID-19:**

Prompt management of students with COVID-19 can prevent further spread and, in some cases, allow for early treatment. Students diagnosed with COVID-19 should follow recommendations listed in [Table 1 \(Persons with COVID-19\)](#) of CDPH's guidance for the general public, including staying home for at least 5 days even if you have been vaccinated. You can leave isolation if you receive a negative antigen test 5-9 days after your symptoms began, and you have no symptoms (or your symptoms are improving), or you haven't had a fever for 24 hours without taking fever-reducing medication. Wearing a well-fitting mask around others for a total of 10 days is required by Yolo County. See the [Yolo County Public Health isolation fact sheet](#).

### **Managing Students Exposed to COVID-19:**

Prompt notification to staff, students, and families regarding exposure to infectious diseases, including COVID-19, can allow for rapid testing, early treatment, and prevention of further spread. Therefore, families should notify their child's school if their child has COVID-19 and was on school grounds during their [infectious period](#). That school, in turn, should notify students who spent more than a cumulative total of 15 minutes (within a 24-hour time period) in a shared indoor airspace (e.g., classroom) with someone with COVID-19 during their infectious period.

### **Maintaining Clean Hands:**

Hand hygiene can prevent the spread of infectious diseases, including COVID-19. YCOE staff will: (1) Reinforce proper [handwashing](#) to lower the risk of spreading viruses, including the virus that causes COVID-19; and (2) Ensure adequate supplies to support hand hygiene behaviors, including soap, tissues, no-touch trashcans, and hand sanitizers with at least 60 percent alcohol for staff and children who can safely use hand sanitizer; and (3) Reinforce covering [coughs and sneezes](#) to help keep individuals from getting and spreading infectious diseases, including COVID-19.

### **Cleaning**

CDPH states that, in general, cleaning once a day is usually enough to sufficiently remove potential viruses that may be on surfaces. Disinfecting (using disinfectants on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency COVID-19 list) removes any remaining germs on surfaces, which further reduces any risk of spreading infection.

### **Food Service**

YCOE cleans frequently touched surfaces. Surfaces that come in contact with food will be washed, rinsed, and sanitized before and after meals.

## **Additional considerations or other populations**

### 1. Disabilities or other health care needs

- When implementing this guidance, YCOE will carefully consider how to address the legal requirements related to provision of a free appropriate public education and requirements to reasonably accommodate disabilities, which continue to apply.
- For additional recommendations for students with disabilities or other health care needs, refer to guidance provided by the [CDC](#), [AAP](#), and the [Healthy Kids Collaborative](#).

### 2. Visitors

- YCOE will review their rules for visitors and family engagement activities and limit the access of school visitors to current policies, which state visitors are required to complete a symptom check; and continue to emphasize the importance of staying home when sick.
- Anyone, including visitors, who have symptoms of infectious illness, such as flu or COVID-19, should stay home and seek testing and care.

## **Continued Strategies**

### **Getting Tested for COVID-19**

Testing remains a key mitigation layer to detect and curb transmission of COVID-19. YCOE will ensure access to COVID-19 testing for students and staff and recommends that antigen tests be considered the primary option for detecting COVID-19 in schools, compared to PCR tests. For more information, see the [Testing Framework for K–12 Schools](#).

### **Identification and Tracing of Contacts**

YCOE manages contact tracing, maintenance, and submission of information to the Yolo County Public Health Department, and notification of exposed persons as described in the Cal/OSHA COVID-19 Prevention Program (CPP).

### **Staff Training and Family Education**

YCOE communicates COVID-19 policies, procedures, and hazard information:

- In this COVID-19 Safety Plan (CSP), posted online
- In this COVID-19 Safety Plan (CSP), available upon request at each site in staff training and/or meetings
- In meetings attended by staff and community

### **Identification and Reporting of Cases**

At all times, reporting of confirmed positive and suspected cases in students and staff will be consistent with reporting requirements.

YCOE staff (Human Resources and/or Program staff) verify COVID-19 case status by phone. YCOE manages:

- Contact tracing
- Maintenance and submission of information to the local health department
- Exclusion of positive cases
- Notification to exposed persons

**Vaccinations:**

Vaccinations prevent illness by working with the body's natural defenses to help safely develop immunity to disease. Therefore, YCOE encourages students and staff to obtain vaccinations and will distribute information, as needed/requested, about vaccination clinics in the community.

For additional information, go to:

[Cal/OSHA COVID-19 Emergency Temporary Standards \(ETS\)](#)  
[CDPH Masking Guidance for the General Public](#)  
[CDPH recommendations](#) (for retesting and/or isolating)  
[CDPH recommendations to improve indoor air quality](#)  
[Community Level Indicators](#)  
[Coughs and Sneezes](#)  
[COVID-19 Outbreak Definitions](#)  
[COVID-19 Testing at Schools](#)  
[COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage](#)  
[Guidance for Individuals Infected with or Exposed to COVID-19](#)  
[Guidance for the Use of Face Masks](#)  
[Handwashing](#)  
[Infectious Period](#)  
[Relevant Local Considerations](#)  
[Safe Schools for All Hub](#)  
[SMARTER](#) Plan  
[State Public Health Officer Order regarding School Workers](#)  
[Symptoms](#)  
[Table 1 \(Persons with COVID-19\)](#)  
[Testing Framework for K–12 Schools](#)