



Acalanes Union High School District

2021-2022
Health & Safety Plan

UPDATED: March 29, 2022

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This is a fluid working document and may be adjusted as conditions and guidance change.

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Message from the Superintendent

Student Member:
Isabelle Bennette

Dear Acalanes Union High School Community,

We have all felt the prolonged hardship of the COVID-19 pandemic. Our experiences differ, but your sacrifices for community, family and personal safety and wellbeing have undoubtedly been significant. We know that the disruption to regular on-campus instructional and extracurricular programs last year has brought additional challenges to many. And we know that students benefit from in-person learning, and safely returning to in-person instruction must be a priority. The foundational principle to our 2021-2022 planning has been to provide access to safe and full in-person instruction to all students.

Throughout our planning process, we have been following the requirements and considering the recommendations and general guidance of the [California Department of Public Health](#), reviewing the general advisory guidance of the [Center for Disease Control and Prevention](#), and following the local orders of [Contra Costa Health Services](#). We have modified our plans as guidance has changed from these agencies through the summer. We have also collaborated broadly with the Contra Costa County Office of Education and other districts in the County. Leadership from our employee groups have provided an invaluable partnership as we move forward to support our students.

The following AUHSD 2021-2022 Health and Safety Plan documents the general safety procedures and protocols for the District. It will be an evolving document as guidance and requirements from our health agencies changes. Any significant changes will be discussed publicly at a meeting of the Governing Board.

To support the safety of our campuses and the general public safety, we must continue to adhere to best practices for personal and public health. By doing the following, we know we can reduce the spread of COVID-19. Please do your part:

- Stay home if feeling sick.
- Wear a mask in accordance with public health agency requirements and recommendations.
- Get tested for COVID, especially if you are feeling sick.
- Wash or sanitize your hands often. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Get vaccinated if you are eligible.

Take care and stay well. And thank you for your efforts to keep your family and the community safe.

Sincerely,



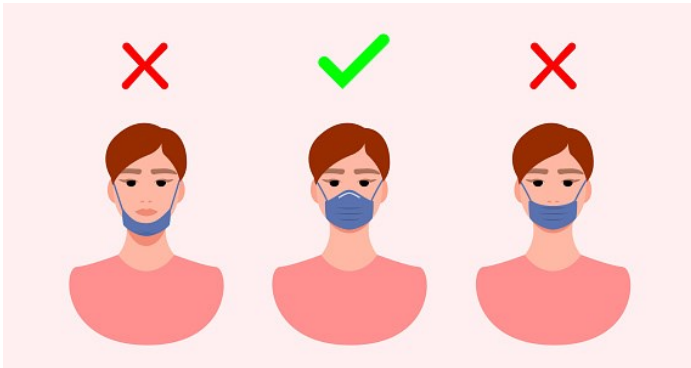
John Nickerson
Superintendent



The health and safety of our students, staff, and families is of the utmost importance. We believe all students must have access to safe and full in-person instruction and will implement plans for safe, successful, and full in-person instruction in the 2021-2022 school year. The following are risk-mitigation strategies for our schools and classrooms. Our plan is based on current guidance from State and Contra Costa County public health officials and other State agencies and will be updated as the situation evolves.

FACE COVERING—MASKING

- Masks are optional outdoors for all in K-12 school settings. Masks are encouraged when outdoors and in crowded environments. The CDC recommends that people who are not fully vaccinated wear a mask in crowded outdoor settings or during activities that involve sustained close contact with other people who are not fully vaccinated.
- K-12 students and staff in K-12 school settings are strongly recommended but not required to mask indoors.
- Schools will provide face coverings to students who request them.



FOOD SERVICES:

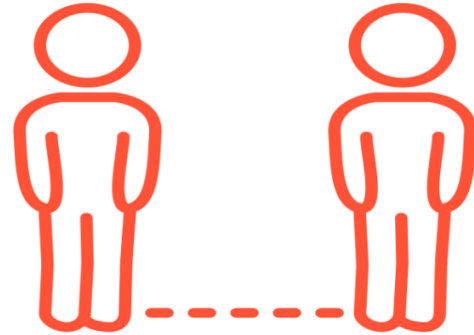
Our [cashless cafeterias](#) will fully function, but students will be encouraged to eat outdoors.

ATHLETICS AND ACTIVITIES:

Athletics and activities will follow the [CCHS Youth Sports & Activity guidelines](#).

Physical Distancing

There are no physical distancing requirements. Students and staff are encouraged to maintain distance when practicable. CDPH cites recent evidence that indicates that in-person instruction can occur safely without minimum physical distancing requirements when other mitigation strategies (e.g., masking) are implemented. This is consistent with [CDC K-12 School Guidance](#).



COVID-19 PASSIVE SCREENING

Students and staff are asked to screen each day prior to coming to school for [COVID-19 symptoms](#) and exposure to COVID-19 positive individuals. Students with symptoms or exposure should remain home and contact their medical provider and the school attendance office. See Appendix A for decision tree related to symptoms and vaccination status.

Health and Safety Protocols

CONTRACT TRACING AND QUARANTINE:

School contact tracing teams were trained by Contra Costa Health Services (CCHS), and contact tracing will be conducted in collaboration with CCHS. Contact identification and quarantine will be in accordance with CCHS and CDPH guidance, respectively.

Positive cases among students and staff will result in group contact notification, where individuals have likely shared indoor airspace with someone with COVID-19 during that person's period of infectiousness. Updated CDPH guidelines do not require individuals identified through group contact tracing to quarantine or isolate, unless they develop symptoms. It is recommended that anyone receiving a group contact notification test for COVID-19 in 3-5 days.

Per AB 86 (2021) and California Code Title 17, section 2500, schools are required to report COVID-19 cases to the local public health department.

COVID-19 TESTING

Rapid antigen COVID-19 testing will be available at each school for students entering quarantine in which asymptomatic testing is required. Free COVID-19 testing for students and staff can be scheduled through [Contra Costa Health Services](#) and many healthcare providers.

VACCINATION:

COVID-19 vaccination of all staff and eligible students is our best strategy to mitigate risk to all. Staff vaccination is required as a condition of employment in AUHSD. Student vaccination is not a requirement in California public schools at this time, but we encourage all unvaccinated eligible students to seek guidance regarding vaccination from their healthcare provider.

VACCINE VERIFICATION:

AUHSD will follow the CalOSHA and CDC vaccine verification requirements for staff. All employees are required to submit proof of vaccination to the Human Resources Department. School Nurses and contact tracing teams might require documentation of student vaccination status to establish needs for quarantine.

PARENTS ON CAMPUS:

Parents are encouraged to call in lieu of school visits and to schedule an appointment when possible. Parents who come to the campus during the school day must report to the main office, screen for [COVID-19 symptoms](#) and are recommended but not required to wear a mask when indoors regardless of vaccination status (consistent with the [current local health orders](#)). Parent drivers and chaperones for school-sponsored events must provide proof of COVID vaccination to school staff.

GENERAL GUIDELINES FROM CDPH

Student or staff with COVID-19 Symptoms (e.g., fever, cough, loss of taste or smell, difficulty breathing):

- Use [Appendix A](#) to identify symptoms and proceed accordingly
- Send home if at school and recommend testing
- School/classroom remain open
- No communication sent to classroom or school community

Student or staff receiving a group COVID-19 contact notification:

- Use [Appendix A](#) to identify symptoms and proceed accordingly
- No quarantine for asymptomatic individuals
- Testing is recommended 3-5 days after exposure
- School/classroom remains open

Staff or student with confirmed COVID-19 case infection:

- Use [Appendix A](#) to identify symptoms and proceed accordingly
- Isolate case and exclude from school for at least 5 days from symptom onset or test date
- Send group notifications to individuals who have shared indoor space with positive case
- Disinfection and cleaning of classroom and primary spaces where case spent significant time
- School remains open

Facility Cleaning & Sanitization Protocols

The safety of employees and students at Acalanes Union High School District is the highest priority. Schools have been completely cleaned and disinfected, and AUHSD will continue to adhere to all necessary safety precautions. In addition to the deep cleaning of the office and school before employees and students return, the cleaning steps outlined below will be followed:

CLEANING - Involves water and soap or a detergent, does not use disinfecting agents, and significantly decreases germs on surfaces and decreases infectious risks.

DISINFECTING - Kills germs on surfaces using specific agents ([click here](#) for those approved by EPA). If a positive COVID-19 case has been identified, the spaces where the case spent a large portion of their time, including classrooms, will be disinfected. (Note: frequent disinfection can pose a health risk to students due to the strong chemicals often used and is not recommended in the school setting unless a positive COVID-19 case has been identified.)

CLEANING AND DISINFECTING

The District has developed protocols, consistent with public health guidance, for daily and ongoing cleaning of each school facility before the return of students to the campus.

In order to disinfect high-touch surfaces regularly to minimize the risk of exposure, the District has invested in updated equipment that will both speed up and make the cleaning process more complete. Also, each classroom and workspace will have access to paper towels and disinfecting supplies.

In addition, AUHSD staff will engage in the following:

- Ongoing cleaning and disinfecting of frequently touched surfaces (e.g., door handles, light switches, bathroom surfaces)
- Disinfecting equipment between use
- Classroom workspaces will be cleaned routinely.
- Additional custodial staff will be deployed at each site
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) will be available at each site as needed

SANITATION STATIONS

Each classroom will have a designated sanitation station. Sanitation stations will include a hand sanitizer dispenser, disinfectant wipes or disinfectant spray and paper towels. Located near the sanitation station is a wall mounted hand sanitizer dispenser. In addition to the supplies at the sanitation station, each classroom has been supplied with the following items:

- Disposable face masks
- Face shield (teacher only)
- Gloves
- Bottle of hand sanitizer

DRINKING STATIONS

- Drinking fountains have bottle filling stations and provides an alternative to using drinking fountains.
- Students should provide their own reusable water bottles to reduce sharing and encourage environmentally friendly alternatives to disposable water bottles.

INDOOR AIR QUALITY

Indoor air quality is essential to providing a safe and comfortable environment for schools and offices. Proper temperature and humidity levels can help slow down the reproduction of viruses and bacteria. AUHSD is ensuring proper preventive maintenance is being performed on all HVAC units and is changing filters on a regular basis and providing adequate air filters:

- The Center for Disease Control recommends increasing air filtration as high as possible (target MERV 13) without diminishing air flow and enforcing the existing or revised indoor air quality plan
- AUHSD HVAC systems have been updated to include MERV-13 filters
- HEPA standing filters and fans are being used as needed
- To help increase airflow in spaces where possible, continuous fan, AC or heat is being utilized in addition to maximizing outdoor air exchange

HANDWASHING

Handwashing is strongly encouraged as one of the most effective ways to prevent the spread of any biological pathogen, including COVID-19.

- Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- Thoroughly dry hands
- Hand sanitizer dispensers have been installed in all school classrooms and instructional spaces

Portable hand sanitization stations are being deployed to supplement existing facilities, especially where food is eaten and in common areas.



Appendix A: Safe Return to School Protocols

CONFIRMED CASE OF COVID-19 OR SYMPTOMS of COVID-19

([CDC list of COVID-19 symptoms](#))



DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL
ISOLATE AT HOME AND NOTIFY YOUR SCHOOL'S
ATTENDANCE OFFICE



Students who tested positive for COVID-19 may return to school on Day 6 if all of the following conditions are met:

- Asymptomatic or have symptoms that are resolving
- Fever free for 24 hours without the use of medications
- Have a negative test on or after Day 5

TESTING REQUIREMENTS:

Test Negative with an At-Home Test & Retest Negative at School: If the student takes a test on or after Day 5 with an at-home testing kit, the student will then need to test again at school on Day 6 before returning to class.

OR

Test Negative with a Lab or Healthcare Provider & Receive Clearance from the School Nurse: If the student takes a test on or after Day 5 with a lab or healthcare provider, they can return to class on Day 6 after providing hardcopy proof of this test to the school.

Students must stay home for the entire 10-day isolation period if any of the following are true:

- Symptoms are not improving
- A fever is present
- Student does not test negative

Students who return early from isolation must wear a tight-fitting mask indoors and outdoors. Students are eligible to participate in athletics on after Day 6 if their isolation has ended and they wear a tight-fitting mask. Testing is not required after 10 days of isolation.

ISOLATION DAYS

The following chart provides an example of how to count isolation days:

Day 0	Positive COVID test
Day 1	Isolate at home
Day 2	Isolate at home
Day 3	Isolate at home
Day 4	Isolate at home
Day 5	Isolate at home <u>AND</u> negative home or lab
Day 6	Return to school <u>IF</u> negative school test or

CONTACT WITH CONFIRMED COVID CASE AT SCHOOL

Per CDPH guidelines, students will be notified when they likely shared indoor airspace with someone with COVID-19 during that person's period of infectiousness.

Isolation or quarantine is not required: students may remain in school unless they develop symptoms or test positive for COVID-19. (Follow procedure on left if symptoms develop or positive test.)

Unvaccinated students should get tested for COVID-19 within 3 to 5 days:

- At School Nurse's Health Office
- [Community Testing Program](#) (scroll to bottom of page)
- Via healthcare provider or a [testing location near you](#)

If a student has received the primary series of a COVID-19 vaccine OR was previously infected with SARS-CoV-2 (laboratory confirmed) within the last 90 days, no testing is required. Being exposed to somebody with COVID-19 does not necessarily mean that a student will become infected.

Guidance aligned with [CDPH guidelines](#) and subject to change.
(Updated: January 18, 2022)

Appendix B: COVID-19 Symptom FAQs & Resources

What do I do if my child is experiencing COVID-19 symptoms while at home?

If your child is experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, please keep them home and contact your child's health care provider. Please contact your school to report the absence; a COVID-19 related absence is excused. See [Appendix A](#) for more details.

If my child was sent home sick, what is the protocol and what do I need to present to the school office before he/she can return?

It depends on the outcome of your consultation with your medical provider, and if your student had COVID-19 exposure. See [Appendix A](#) for specifics.

What if someone in our household tested positive for COVID-19?

If someone in your household tested positive for COVID-19, your child may have been infected. No isolation or quarantine is required if your child has no symptoms and vaccinated. Unvaccinated students are required to quarantine if they are a close contact. Testing is highly recommended within 3-5 days of exposure.

What happens if a student demonstrates COVID-19 symptoms while at school?

If a student becomes ill during the school day, the following steps will be taken:

- Student will be taken to an isolation area where temperature and symptoms will be evaluated; student will remain in the isolation area until they are picked up by a parent or guardian
- The school site will work with the family to follow the Symptom Decision Tree ([Appendix A](#))

I have more than one student in the district. If one is sent home, how does that affect my other children?

Per CDPH guidelines, only students who are exhibiting signs and symptoms of COVID-19 will be sent home. Your medical provider will determine the appropriate next steps, including, but not limited to, COVID-19 testing for your student and other family members. Quarantine guidelines will be determined in consultation with your medical provider, the school and/or the county health department.

Can my child wear a face shield and mask? Does the district supply a face shield?

Your child can wear both a face shield and mask together. The district does not supply face shields to students.

What are the criteria for closing a school?

We will work with Contra Costa Health Services should there be multiple outbreaks on a campus to make a determination regarding closing a school.

What happens if a positive COVID-19 case occurs at a school site?

For any positive COVID-19 case the following protocol will be applied, in accordance with state and local laws and regulations. School administrators will notify the District Office designee with the following information:

- Name of person confirmed
- If known, date of potential exposure and/or date of test
- Last date on AUHSD campus or facility
- Names of individuals who likely shared indoor airspace with someone with COVID-19 during that person's period of infectiousness

The person, if on campus, will be isolated and safely dismissed from school. The person will follow guidelines outlined in [Appendix A](#) for a safe return to school.

School and District staff will coordinate a response with CCHS, and send group notifications to individuals who likely shared indoor airspace with someone with COVID-19 during that person's period of infectiousness.

The classroom or impacted areas will receive extensive cleaning and disinfecting following District Maintenance & Operations procedures and CDPH/CCHS guidelines.

COVID-19 RESOURCES

The following public agency websites provide additional information and guidance on the state of the pandemic and how it relates to school operations:

- [AUHSD COVID-19 Website](#) (Dashboard, Community Testing & Resources)
- Contra Costa Health Services (CCHS) [free COVID-19 testing website](#) (or call 844-729-8410)
- Contra Costa Health Services (CCHS) [COVID-19 website](#) (including COVID-19 Dashboard)
- California Department of Public Health (CDPH) - [Contact Tracing Options and Quarantine Requirements](#)
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools](#)

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