



COVID-19
Health and Safety
Plan

2021-2022

INTRODUCTION

The onset of the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) global pandemic triggered unprecedented government mandated shelter-at-home orders. Effective March 16, 2020, the Placer County Public Health Officer, in consultation with the Placer County Superintendent of Schools, along with district superintendents and charter school operators, recommended the suspension of in-person classroom instruction for nearly 75,000 students in an effort to mitigate the spread of the virus.

Subsequently, Placer County Public Health issued a countywide Stay-at-Home Directive on March 19, 2020 suspending all non-essential work. The uncertainty around when state and local health officials would lift shelter-at-home orders prompted a joint decision between the Placer County Public Health Officer and public school leaders to extend distance learning through the remainder of the 2019/2020 academic year.

Placer Academy Charter recognizes that school is an integral component of our community. It serves as the center of learning, a place for students to socialize and interact with peers, as well as a resource space for socioemotional growth and support. We also recognize that many parents and guardians cannot return to work unless school is open for students. As you read our reopening plan you will find that it is grounded in safety, flexibility, and the latest science. This document is a living document. The following plans will adjust and adapt based on the latest public health conditions and science.

Practices, protocols, and procedures will adjust as we collectively respond to the global pandemic. This underscores the reality that we very well may open and close classrooms and/or the entire campus throughout the year to in-person instruction. Regardless of what we encounter this year, we must maintain the greatest consistency possible for students, staff, and the larger PAC community. This plan prepares for that reality.

We believe Placer Academy Charter School is well-equipped to navigate this change. With a focus on students first, accountability, and innovation, along with a strong community of students, teachers, staff, and families we will fulfill our commitment to serving every single one of our students. We still need our friends, family, and neighbors to work together to slow the spread of COVID-19 to create the conditions where we can welcome students back to campus full time. You can assist by teaching your students the best practices for slowing the disease – physically distancing when appropriate, wearing face coverings, washing your hands regularly and often, and limiting any mixed household gatherings. Protecting our community and preparing students for this new reality is of utmost importance.

Per State guidelines, Placer Academy Charter will continue to review guidance, consult, communicate, and collaborate with the following entities to ensure our campus is compliant and safe for our students and staff:

- [Placer County Public Health](#)
- [Placer County Office of Education](#)
- [California Department of Public Health](#)
- [California Department of Education](#)
- [CalOSHA](#)
- [Center for Disease Control and Prevention](#)
- [US Department of Education](#)

HYGIENE AND HEALTH PROTOCOLS

HAND HYGIENE

Placer Academy Charter School is taking an “education first” approach to all on-campus hygiene protocols. PAC staff will teach and promote proper hygiene to children on a regular basis (i.e. frequent handwashing or the use of hand sanitizer).

Staff and students will be reminded to:

- Wash their hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Use hand sanitizer with at least 70% alcohol if soap and water are not available.
- Avoid touching their eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Cover their mouth and nose or use the inside of your elbow when you cough or sneeze.

Hands should be washed or sanitized:

- After blowing nose, coughing, or sneezing
- After use of the restroom
- Before eating or preparing food
- Before and after recess and/or eating snack
- After touching frequently touched areas (door knobs, handrails, shared computers, etc.)

ENCOURAGING PREVENTATIVE MEASURES

Preventative measures are posted in the hallways and classrooms to serve as reminders of ways to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Ongoing education on preventative measures, such as avoiding touching their face with their hands as much as possible, maintaining social distancing, coughing and sneezing etiquette, mask usage, and reporting illness, are provided to students and staff. PAC encourages individuals to avoid close contact with people who are sick. Staff, students, and other individuals on campus are instructed not to come to work or school if they are feeling ill.

DAILY HEALTH SCREENING

Prior to arriving at school families and staff must perform daily health screenings with their children utilizing the [Passive Symptom Checker](#).

They must also ensure that they do not have symptoms that the CDC has indicated are symptoms of COVID-19. The symptoms include: fever, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, and diarrhea.

Staff and students are required to stay home when they are feeling unwell or if they have come into contact with an individual who has tested positive for COVID-19 in accordance with current guidelines.

- ❖ Vaccinated individuals who are asymptomatic may still attend school following an exposure but must notify the school attendance office for students, or school nurse for staff, of the exposure.

When in Doubt, Sit It Out!

Upon arrival at school, PAC staff may conduct secondary health screenings including taking temperatures and asking students if they or anyone in their household are demonstrating COVID-19 symptoms. Students showing signs of illness upon arrival or during the school day will have their temperature taken in the office. Students with a temperature above 100.4°F or showing symptoms of illness will be separated from other students and families will be contacted to immediately pick them up from school.

PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

In order to minimize exposure to COVID-19, PPE will be used by students and staff PPE includes:

- Face Coverings are an essential part of student and staff protection. They will be required of all staff, students, and visitors. Students should have their own face covering. PAC will have disposable and cloth face coverings available for students and/or staff who forget their face covering.
- Gloves are not recommended except for specific situations. Touching your face with contaminated hands, whether gloved or not, poses a significant risk of infection. Wearing gloves does not diminish the need to wash your hands. Gloves should only be worn when providing first aid, handling food, or cleaning and sanitizing.

FACE COVERINGS

Face Coverings Guidance was developed and updated in accordance with CDPH guidelines.

CDPH mandates that students, regardless of vaccination status, wear a face covering while indoors at school, at school events off campus and on school transportation, unless exempted per CDPH face mask guidance. Face coverings are optional when outdoors on campus for all individuals. This includes recess, lunch, outdoor PE activities, and briefly when drinking water from their water bottles in classrooms.

CDPH also mandates that all adults, regardless of vaccination status, wear a face covering while sharing indoor spaces with students at school and on school

transportation, including field trip drivers. Additional PAC procedures regarding face coverings for adults on campus will be developed in accordance with current health guidance from the State and County health departments.

A face covering is a covering made of cloth, fabric, or other soft or permeable material without holes. It should cover the nose, mouth, and chin. A face covering should not hide or obscure the eyes. The face covering should be comfortable so the wearer can breathe comfortably through the nose and does not have to adjust it frequently, so as to avoid touching the face. Any face covering that incorporates a one-way valve (typically a raised plastic cylinder about the size of a quarter on the front or side of the mask) that is designed to facilitate easy exhaling is not an appropriate face covering for COVID-19. Valves of that type permit droplet release, putting others nearby at risk. All face coverings must meet the latest guidelines from the California Department of Public Health. If a student or staff does not have an appropriate face covering according to CDPH guidance, one will be provided to them.

Per CDPH, face covering exemptions are limited. For full information, please visit the CDPH website. The face covering guidance recognizes that there are some people who cannot wear a cloth face covering. A face shield with a drape can be approved by the school in situations where a cloth face covering is not an option for an individual due to their specific health needs.

If a student continually refuses to wear a mask after being provided one and they do not meet CDPH exemption requirements, the student will be excluded from school and may be subject to disenrollment in accordance with the school's attendance and involuntary disenrollment policies and procedures. As charter schools are not required by law to offer independent study, PAC will not be offering independent study as an education option to all students. District of residence, county office of education or non-classroom based charter school options can be considered to allow student access to independent study.

PHYSICAL DISTANCING

Students and staff are no longer required to socially distance in our learning and work settings. PAC will operate on a traditional schedule. On-site gatherings and events may be permitted given local conditions. Field trips may be permitted given local conditions. Visitors and volunteers will be allowed back on school sites on a limited basis but must wear a face mask while indoors and when children are present, regardless of vaccination status.

CLEANING AND DISINFECTING

All high touch surface areas and bathrooms will be cleaned throughout the day. Any shared materials will be cleaned with approved disinfectants at least daily. Student's

belongings will be separated and in individual containers, cubbies, or areas to allow for easy cleaning and lack of cross-contamination. Janitorial services and deep cleanings are completed each evening, prior to students and staff returning to campus the following day. All disinfectants and procedures will be based on the EPA's Emerging Viral Pathogen Policy. All non-essential gatherings of large groups, including field trips, performances, and assemblies will be held virtually until the public health guidelines allow for in-person activities.

ADDRESSING ILLNESS OR COVID-19 SCENARIOS

IDENTIFICATION AND TRACING OF CONTACTS

Designated school staff has been identified and trained to support contact tracing and reporting to County health departments. Processes are in place to identify and notify families and staff in the event there is a suspected or confirmed exposure linked to our school. Communication and tracking of quarantines and exposures is done in accordance with recommendations from the local public health department and in accordance with our school processes. Quarantine timelines have been developed in accordance with adherence to the CDPH recommendations.

SCHOOL ROUTINES FOR ILLNESS

Our hope is that all illnesses will be caught early through at-home through daily wellness screenings and temperature checks utilizing the [Passive Symptom Checker](#). However, should a student or staff member become ill with COVID-19 symptoms while on campus we will follow the general procedures below:

Students

If a student becomes ill at school and is exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19, they will be separated from other students and their parents and emergency card contacts will be contacted to pick them up from school. A separate space on campus has been designated as a health office. Spaces accessed by the student will be closed off to student and staff access until it is cleaned and disinfected per the guidance from Placer County Public Health.

Staff Members

If a staff member becomes ill at work, they will be instructed to go home or to the nearest testing site. Staff returning to work from an approved medical leave should contact their supervisor. Staff may be asked to submit a healthcare provider's note before returning to work. Spaces accessed by the staff member will be closed off to student and staff access until it is cleaned and disinfected per the guidance from Placer County Public Health by Coverall Janitorial Services.

Per state recommendations, upon notification PAC will recommend the individual experiencing symptoms consistent with COVID-19 be tested. The school/classroom will remain open in consultation with public health officials. Per state recommendations, students or staff with symptoms that have been identified as being consistent with COVID-19 are excluded from school and may return if the following are met:

- At least 24 hours have passed since the resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications; AND
- Other symptoms have improved; AND

- Individual has a negative COVID-19 test OR a healthcare provider has provided documentation that the symptoms are consistent with their underlying, chronic health condition (such as asthma or allergies) OR a healthcare provider has confirmed and diagnosed an alternative diagnosis (such as streptococcal pharyngitis) OR at least 10 days have passed since symptom onset.

QUARANTINE AND CLOSING PROCEDURES

Every family should prepare for on-going school or classroom closures based on any positive cases on campus or potential COVID-19 exposure. When a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19 the students in that individual's class(es) will likely be sent home to quarantine and learn via distance learning. Anytime we have a student or staff member with a confirmed COVID-19 case we will contact Placer County Public Health for guidance using the most up-to-date protocols. However, below are some overall principles families, students, and staff members should expect to implement based on three broad scenarios.

Student or Staff that have confirmed COVID-19 infection

- Parents need to notify the school and staff are required to notify their administrator as soon as they are aware of a positive test for COVID-19.
- Designated health personnel will notify the local health department in accordance with State and local laws and regulations.
- Individuals who are positive cannot return to campus for 10 days from symptom onset or date of test in the absence of symptoms; AND at least 24 hours fever free without the use of fever-reducing medication; AND symptoms have improved.
- Contact tracers will identify close contacts from school and follow notification and quarantine guidance for those individuals.

Student or Staff that have close contact with a confirmed COVID-19 case

- Unless vaccinated, students and staff should not come to school if they knowingly had close contact with a confirmed COVID-19 positive individual until they have spoken with the PAC school nurse to determine their quarantine plans.
- Vaccinated individuals may continue to come to school but should still report their exposure to the PAC school nurse. Vaccinated individuals who do not have symptoms do not need to quarantine or be tested to attend school.
- When all students are masked indoors, unvaccinated students who are a close contact of a school-related exposure may continue to attend school on modified quarantine for the in-person instruction if:
 - They are asymptomatic (without any symptoms of COVID-19); AND
 - They continue to appropriately wear a mask on campus; AND
 - They provide documentation of two negative tests during the 10-day quarantine; AND
 - They continue to quarantine for all extracurricular activities at school, including sports and other activities. Per item 9a in the CDPH guidance,

students can return to extracurricular activities, including sports, after day 7 if they test negative on a sample collected on day 5 or later. These results will need to be documented and shared with the school administrator prior to their clearance to return.

- Participation in modified quarantine is limited to students whose mask-on-mask exposure occurred at school (both case and contact were masked). Students who are identified as a close contact due to exposure outside of the school are subject to regular quarantine. Teachers and staff are eligible for a modified quarantine in accordance with CDPH guidance.

When students are identified contacts off campus, or when all involved students are not masked indoors, then unvaccinated students who are close contacts may discontinue quarantine if:

- They are asymptomatic (without any symptoms of COVID-19); AND
- Continue to appropriately wear a mask at all times on campus; AND
- Quarantine 10 days from the date of last exposure has been completed without testing OR quarantine 7 days from the date of last exposure and tests negative with specimens collected after day 5 from last exposure.

To discontinue quarantine before 14 days following last known exposure all asymptomatic close contacts must:

- Continue daily self-monitoring for symptoms through day 14 from last known exposure; AND
- Appropriately wear a mask at all times on campus; AND
- If any symptoms develop during the 14 day period, student or staff members must immediately isolate, get tested, and contact their healthcare provider.

A close contact is defined by the CDC as anyone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for a total of 15 minutes or more over a 24 hour period.

COVID-19 tests to shorten quarantine or exclusion are valid when administered by a trained healthcare professional in a healthcare setting or school setting

NOTIFICATIONS FOR POSITIVE CASES ON CAMPUS

When Placer Academy Charter School has a confirmed positive COVID-19 case on campus any notifications will be made by the Executive Director or designee with guidance from Placer County Public Health. All notifications will be made in a confidential manner in accordance with state and federal laws. Notifications are provided on a need-to-know basis. Students, staff, and families should assume that they could be in the presence of an asymptomatic carrier at any given time and as a result always follow the current public health guidance regarding mask wearing and physical distancing.

COVID-19 TESTING

Local public health departments provide testing options which can be accessed here:

- [Placer County](#)

Students and staff also have the option to seek testing from their healthcare provider.

SAFE RETURN TO IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION

As delineated below, PAC plans to move through a phased approach as we are permitted to return to on-campus instruction while adhering to state and county health guidelines. We will continue to offer an Independent Learning option for those families wishing to continue the school year exclusively online.

Phase 1 - *Distance Learning for all students.*

Phase 2 - *Distance Learning continues for most students. Some Special Education students, English Learner students, and Intervention students may be able to return to school for required services, assessments, and instruction.*

Phase 3 - *In-person, Hybrid Learning will be implemented for all students except those in the IL or DL programs.*

Phase 4 - *Traditional Classroom Learning with health guidelines and restrictions.*

Phase 5 - *Traditional Classroom Learning with no restrictions.*

SCHOOL WIDE OR CLASSROOM CLOSURE

In the event of a class or school closure due to COVID-19, PAC will provide a robust Distance Learning program for students designed to continue the course of study occurring in the classroom setting. Teachers will provide a combination of pacing guides, resources, curriculum, live and recorded lessons, and regular student check-ins to support the learning process at home. More information can be found in our [Distance Learning Guide](#). Students receiving Special Education services will receive provider minutes as per their IEP on campus or via teletherapy. All services and minutes will be met. IEP meetings will be held virtually. Grab and Go student meals will be available through the Placer Academy Charter Lunch Program for all students.

STUDENT QUARANTINE

If a student is in quarantine but the class is not, the student will be able to access a digital “playlist” to complete the day’s assignments. Additionally, teachers will provide

a daily virtual lesson and/or check-in time for the student. If the student has an IEP or receives other support services, they will receive them virtually.

STAFF TRAINING AND FAMILY EDUCATION

STAFF TRAINING

Placer Academy Charter staff is required to complete training related to COVID-19 in general and specific to our organization's procedures. Regular reminders and retraining procedures are in place to ensure understanding and compliance.

FAMILY EDUCATION

Placer Academy Charter families have been provided information on symptom awareness and resources via our website. Our weekly newsletters also include consistent reminders to follow our attendance procedures. Safety plans are shared with families with instructions on how to access them on our website.

PUBLIC INPUT

Placer Academy Charter sought stakeholder input via multiple surveys, a virtual town hall, and public board meetings.