



## 2023 Updated CV19 Safety Plan

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*Our Vision: Until every child with dyslexia succeeds in school and life.*

*Our Mission: To Provide children with dyslexia the education they need to thrive.*

*INTEGRITY ~ COURAGE ~ COMPASSION ~ COMMUNITY*

It is recommended that schools communicate to 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.

# Mitigation Strategies

## Staying Up to Date on Vaccinations

Vaccinations prevent illness by working with the body's natural defenses to help safely develop immunity to disease. Not only do vaccinations provide individual-level protection, but high vaccination coverage reduces the burden of disease in schools and communities and may help protect individuals who are not vaccinated or those who may not develop a strong immune response from vaccination.

### 1. Recommended Actions:

- a. California strongly recommends that all eligible individuals [get vaccinated against COVID-19](#) and [remain up-to-date](#) to protect themselves and reduce transmission of the virus.
- b. Additionally, children have fallen behind on receiving other vaccines over the course of pandemic, placing them and their communities at increased risk of falling ill from other vaccine-preventable illnesses. Schools should review statutory requirements for vaccination requirements for entry into K–12 schools and visit [Shots for School](#) for information.

Stellar Academy recommends all staff and students follow California vaccination recommendations.

## Optimizing Indoor Air Quality:

The risk of getting COVID-19 is greater in indoor settings with poor air quality. Effective ventilation and filtration can curb the spread of COVID-19 and other infectious diseases. It may also protect students and staff from exposure to wildfire smoke, along with other airborne allergens and pollutants.

## 1. Recommended Actions:

- a. K-12 schools should follow [CDPH recommendations to improve indoor air quality](#) to mitigate against COVID-19 in K–12 schools. Facility maintenance staff may also review [technical considerations](#) (PDF).
- b. In circumstances where outdoor air quality is poor (such as from wildfire smoke), schools are encouraged to confer with local health officials to determine the best approach forward. Considerations include access to the following:
  - higher quality facemasks (e.g., N95, KN95, or KF94 respirators);
  - alternative spaces with better air quality to host in-person learning
  - alternative ways to commute to/from school; and
  - local COVID-19 epidemiologic factors (i.e., vaccination coverage status, community case rates).

For more information, see resources and guidance from the [California Department of Education](#) and the [California Air Resources Board](#).

Stellar Academy follows all recommended actions for optimizing indoor air quality as listed above.

## Using Facemasks:

Masks, particularly [high-quality and well-fitting masks](#) (PDF), remain a highly effective, inexpensive, and dynamic tool to protect oneself and mitigate transmission of COVID-19 and other respiratory pathogens. Refer to [Get the Most Out of Masking: Tips & Resources](#)

### 1. Required Actions:

- a. As noted in [CDPH Guidance for the Use of Face Masks](#), “no person can be prevented from wearing a mask as a condition of participation in an activity or entry into a venue or business (including schools or childcare), unless wearing a mask would pose a safety hazard” [e.g., watersports].

b. As noted in [Cal/OSHA COVID-19 Prevention Non-Emergency Regulations](#), “Employers shall provide face coverings and ensure they are worn by employees when required by a CDPH regulation or order.”

Our school office will provide masks to students who present with symptoms once at school while awaiting rapid test results &/or parent/guardian pick-up. Masks will be provided to staff/visitors whenever requested.

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

Testing remains a key mitigation layer to detect and curb transmission of COVID-19. Schools are encouraged to ensure access to COVID-19 testing for students and staff, particularly for vulnerable communities. Schools should review support and resources offered by the [California COVID-19 Testing Task Force](#), as well as those available through healthcare insurers, local, and federal sources.

### **1. Recommended Actions:**

a. CDPH recommends that rapid 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](#).

Stellar Academy provides students with rapid antigen tests, with parent/guardian permission, to self-test when/if symptoms develop during the school day. Staff are provided CV19 tests upon request.

## **Maintaining Clean Hands:**

Hand hygiene can prevent the spread of infectious diseases, including COVID-19.

### **1. Recommended Actions:**

- a. Schools should teach and reinforce proper [handwashing](#) to lower the risk of spreading viruses, including the virus that causes COVID-19.
- b. Schools should 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. Hand sanitizers should be stored up, away, and out of sight of younger children and should be used only with adult supervision for children ages 5 years and younger
- c. Schools should teach and reinforce etiquette for covering [coughs and sneezes](#) to help keep individuals from getting and spreading infectious diseases, including COVID-19.

Stellar Academy requires students to wash their hands/use hand sanitizers according to the above recommendations. Scheduled/dedicated hand-washing times throughout the daily school schedule help ensure student compliance.

## **Managing Individuals with Symptoms:**

Staying home when sick can lower the risk of spreading infectious diseases, including COVID-19, to other people.

### **1. Recommended Actions:**

- a. Students should attend school only when healthy and well. In most situations, any student 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 until 24 hours have passed since resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications. (See ■ *Stellar Handbook 2023 - 2024.pdf* )
- b. Additionally, if [symptoms](#) are concerning for COVID-19, it is strongly recommended that students wear a mask and get tested immediately.

Students should also follow [CDPH recommendations](#) for retesting and/or isolating if the results are positive.

Stellar Academy follows all recommendations as stated above. Under no circumstances should students (staff) come to school while sick.

## **Reporting COVID-19 disease burden to local health authorities:**

Notifying local health authorities of the disease burden in schools can expedite the deployment of additional strategies and resources to manage illness and contain transmission and outbreaks.

### **1. Required Actions:**

- a. K–12 schools should refer to California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 17, [§2500](#) and [§2508](#) for reporting requirements. Note that 17 CCR §2500 has been temporarily modified by the [State Public Health Officer Order of February 10th, 2022](#).
- b. As workplaces, schools are subject to COVID-19 workplace outbreak reporting requirements stipulated in [Cal/OSHA COVID-19 Non-Emergency Regulations](#).

Stellar Academy observes all required reporting actions as described above.

## **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.

### **1. Recommended Action:**

- a. Students diagnosed with COVID-19 should follow the recommendations listed in [Table 1 Guidance on Isolation and Quarantine for COVID-19](#) of CDPH's guidance for the general public.

Stellar Academy follows the recommendations listed above.

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

Addressing exposures to infectious diseases, including COVID-19, can allow for rapid testing, early treatment, and prevention of further spread.

### **1. Recommended Actions:**

- a. Schools should consider providing a general notification to the entire school community during times of elevated [community transmission](#) of COVID-19. This communication can alert all to the increased potential of being exposed to COVID-19 due to a rise in cases among school and community members, and remind all to monitor for symptoms and get tested.
- b. All students with known exposure to persons with COVID-19 should follow the recommendations listed in [Table 2 Guidance on Isolation and Quarantine for COVID-19](#) of CDPH's guidance for the general public. If they remain without symptoms, students may continue to take part in all aspects of K–12 schooling including sports and extracurricular activities.

Stellar Academy follows the recommendations listed above.

## **Managing COVID-19 Outbreaks:**

CDPH will continue to support local health and education officials in managing [suspected or confirmed outbreaks](#) of COVID-19.

### **1. Recommended Actions:**

- a. Broad disruptions to in-person learning, such as temporary school or classroom closures, due to COVID-19 should remain a last resort and considered only after all available resources have been exhausted, and only after conferring with local health officials.

b. Local public health officials are encouraged to [contact CDPH](#) to learn more about consultation, testing and vaccination resources to support management of COVID-19 outbreaks.

Stellar Academy follows the recommendations listed above.

## **Cleaning Facilities:**

**1. Recommended Actions:** In general, routine cleaning is sufficient to remove the virus that causes COVID-19 from surfaces. If disinfectants are used, use [asthma-safer products](#).

Stellar Academy follows the recommendations listed above.

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## **Updates:**

### [Cal/OSHA](#)

The California Department of Public Health has announced changes to their [Isolation and Quarantine guidance](#) and [State Public Health Officer Order](#) on COVID-19 that will be effective on March 13, 2023. Cal/OSHA has updated [Frequently Asked Questions](#) to reflect the changes.

The COVID-19 Infection Prevention Non-Emergency Regulations (California Code of Regulations, Title 8, sections 3205 to 3205.3) are in effect until **February 3, 2025**.

### [ALAMEDA COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION](#)

Note: There are currently no updates for the 2023-24 school year at this time.

Any updates will be posted here in the future.