

# 2022-2023 school year COVID-19 prevention policies and information

Dear Parents and Guardians of Learning Pathways,

On June 30, 2022, the California Department of Public Health released their updated COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for schools to support safe in-person learning for the 2022-2023 school year. Applicable passages are quoted below along with our own updated COVID-19 prevention policies.

**“COVID-19 is here to stay, but we have learned methods and gained tools to decrease its impact on our health and well-being. California's schools can manage this disease in sustainable and adaptive manners.” - CDPH**

- Any child, parent, caregiver, or staff showing any symptoms of COVID-19, or has recently tested positive for COVID-19, should not enter our campus or any of our school buildings.
- All parents, children, and staff must stay home if they have a high fever, cough, difficulty breathing or other signs of illness, or if someone in their home has the same symptoms, or if they have had any exposure to another individual who is suspected to have or has been confirmed positive with the COVID-19 virus.
- If you are symptom free, you may enter classrooms or any school building to drop off or pick up your child, but please keep your visit as brief as possible.
- Upon arriving, children will have their temperature taken and recorded by an admin or teacher using either a temperature kiosk or a touchless infrared thermometer.
- If anyone has a temperature of 100.4°F/38°C or higher they will be excluded from our school and be required to leave our campus.
- Staff and children will be monitored throughout the day for any signs of possible illness.
- If a child or staff member tests positive for the COVID-19 virus, they may not return to the school for at least 5 days from the initial onset of symptoms. A negative COVID-19 test result will be required to return.
- As recommended by the CDPH, all drinking fountains will be open for use by all students and staff. Routine cleaning will be done daily. We still recommend your child bring their own personal water bottle to school, but it is no longer required. If you do provide a water bottle for your child, please take it home every night for a thorough cleaning/disinfecting.
- Areas that are touched by hands during the day (toilets, counters, tabletops, cots, outdoor play structures, etc.) will be disinfected daily.
- We will extend the indoor environment to the outdoors as often as possible.

- Cohorts, or classrooms, will occasionally be blended for extracurricular activities, outdoor play time, and end of the day indoor activities. Children will remain in groups as small as possible.
- Windows and doors will be open to ventilate classrooms before and after children arrive.
- HEPA large room air purifiers will be used in every classroom at our Cambrian school.
- The forced fresh air fans at our Willow Glen school will be switched on while the children are indoors.
- Strict handwashing guidelines will be enforced for staff and children.
- Automatic hand sanitizer dispensers are available outside every classroom door.

### **Mask wearing**

- Wearing a facemask is currently not mandatory at either of our school campuses.
- If you want your child to wear a facemask, please inform your child's teachers. They will do their best to remind your child to keep their facemask in place unless they are eating, drinking, or napping.

### **COVID-19 Vaccinations**

- All family members aged 6 months and older may now receive COVID-19 vaccinations. We strongly recommend that all eligible individuals get vaccinated against COVID-19 and remain up to date to protect oneself and reduce transmission of the virus. If you need assistance making an appointment, we can help.
- All Learning Pathways teachers and staff are required to be vaccinated against COVID-19 unless health conditions preclude them from doing so.
- If a teacher or staff member is unable to be vaccinated due to health considerations, they are required to be tested for the COVID-19 virus weekly.

**“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.” - CDPH**

### **What can parents do to help?**

- Any child, parent, caregiver, or staff showing any symptoms of COVID-19 should not enter our campus or any of our school buildings.
- All parents, children, and staff must stay home if they have a high fever, cough, difficulty breathing or other signs of illness, or if someone in their home has the same symptoms, or if they have had any exposure to another individual who is suspected to have or has been confirmed positive with the COVID-19 virus.
- If a child exhibits signs of illness, we will follow the facility procedures for isolation from the general room population. Parents or caregivers will be notified and be requested to immediately pick up their child.

- All parents, caregivers, and staff are asked to perform a health screening on themselves and their children daily, prior to coming to school. i.e.: *Do you and your child feel well? Do either of you have a high fever or cough?*
- All parents **MUST** notify us if their children were given any fever reducing medications in the prior 24 hours.
- Parents must have their child’s physician reports and immunization records on file before their child can attend and these records must be kept up to date for the duration of enrollment.
- Create and act out scripted stories around handwashing, proper etiquette for sneezes, coughs, etc.
- Model and practice handwashing before and after eating, after coughing or sneezing, after playing outside, and after using the restroom.
- Explain to your child why it is not healthy to share drinks or food, particularly when sick.
- Teach your child to use a tissue to wipe their nose and to cough inside their elbow.
- Conduct visual wellness checks of yourself and your child before coming to school.
- Wash your hands and assist in washing the hands of your child prior to coming to school and after arriving home.
- Label all your child’s personal items and keep them in a separate bag to ensure personal items are separate from others.

**“Due to the increased travel and social interactions that often occurs during school-breaks, it is recommended that students and staff get tested for COVID-19 prior to returning to school following major breaks (e.g., summer, winter, spring).” - CDPH**

### **COVID-19 Exposure Notifications**

With guidance from the California Department of Public Health and with the support of the Santa Clara County Public Health Department, it has been determined that a general notification to parents/guardians of COVID-19 exposure is the preferred notification procedure at this time. If we are notified of positive COVID-19 test result in your child’s classroom, you will be notified of the possible exposure through email. If a large outbreak occurs, classrooms may be temporarily closed but only after conferring with local health officials.

**“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.” - CDPH**

**Federal, state, and local orders and guidance may change frequently.  
Updates will be provided as needed.**

Thank you for your continued cooperation and consideration.

The staff and children of Learning Pathways Preschool and Kindergarten