



Woodland Star Charter School

Woodland Star Charter continues to work towards maintaining student and staff health safety during the ever shifting COVID-19 environment. This plan will be updated as required throughout the 2022-23 school year.

Mitigation Strategies

Vaccinations:

California and Woodland Star Charter School strongly recommends that all eligible individuals [get vaccinated against COVID-19](#) and [remain up-to-date](#) to protect oneself and reduce transmission of the virus.

COVID-19 vaccination is not currently required for students but remains highly recommended.

California requires all school workers (paid or unpaid) to be vaccinated or participate in a weekly COVID-19 testing program. Due to the administrative burden of regularly testing unvaccinated volunteers, all non-employee workers must submit proof of vaccination.

Optimizing Ventilation:

All classrooms and shared spaces are equipped with portable air purifiers and should be used. Natural ventilation should be utilized by opening doors and windows except when the air quality is unhealthy. HVAC systems should be run to assist with inside airflow.

Masks:

Masks, particularly [high-quality and well-fitting masks](#) (PDF), remain highly effective, inexpensive, and dynamic tools to protect oneself and mitigate transmission of COVID-19 and other respiratory pathogens. The CDPH and Sonoma County Health Department highly recommends that all individuals mask while indoors in public settings.

Woodland Star ***strongly recommends*** masking, especially while indoors except:

Masks are **required** in the following situations:

- Following a known exposure

- If COVID-19 symptoms develop
- Following a COVID-19 diagnosis with a negative antigen test between day 5 and 10 (required until day 11)

If two or more classes have an outbreak, Woodland Star Charter will shift to requiring indoor masking. Any change to the masking requirement will be communicated to all Staff and Parents via ParentSquare.

Additionally, any additional recommendations made by the CDPH, CDC, Sonoma County Health Department, and the Sonoma County Office of Education will be taken into consideration and may result in taking more restrictive measures.

In the event that an individual who falls under a required masking protocol refuses to wear an appropriate face covering, they will be asked to leave. Students who refuse in this situation will be sent home immediately.

Woodland Star Charter School will continue to provide disposable masks for all students, staff and visitors who request one. Masks are available in the office.

COVID-19 Testing:

Woodland Star continues to offer on-site antigen testing for all students and staff. Parents and other community members may participate in our testing program as time and supply permit. Additionally, WSCS will continue to request and distribute at-home antigen tests for students and staff as those programs are offered.

When to test:

- 3 and 5 days after a known exposure
- 5 and 3 days before returning from a school break
- When presenting COVID-19 symptoms

Additional testing protocols are recommended under high risk exposures and outbreaks.

Maintaining Clean Hands:

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

Staff and faculty should teach and reinforce proper [handwashing](#) to lower the risk of spreading viruses, including the virus that causes COVID-19.

WSCS will provide adequate supplies to support hand hygiene behaviors, including soap, tissues, 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.

WSCS will teach and reinforce covering [coughs and sneezes](#) to help keep individuals from getting and spreading infectious diseases, including COVID-19.

Managing Individuals with Symptoms:

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

California requires employers to provide [COVID-19 supplemental paid sick leave](#) for most workers through September 30, 2022. This includes circumstances in which workers are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 and seeking a medical diagnosis, attending a vaccine appointment for themselves or for a family member, and/or if a worker's child is isolating due to COVID-19 infection. *Please contact Becky Traum for information regarding COVID-19 supplemental paid sick leave.*

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 until 24 hours have passed since resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications. For gastrointestinal symptoms, individuals must be symptom free for 24 hours before returning to campus.

If symptoms develop while on campus, masking will be required. Arrangements must be made for students to be transported home within 30 minutes.

All persons with COVID-19 symptoms, regardless of vaccination status or previous infection, should:

- Self-isolate and test as soon as possible to determine infection status. Knowing one is infected early during self-isolation enables (a) earlier access to treatment options, if indicated (especially for those that may be at risk for severe illness), and (b) notification of exposed persons (close contacts) who may also benefit by knowing if they are infected.
 - For symptomatic persons who have tested positive within the previous 90 days, using an antigen test is preferred.
- Remain in isolation while waiting for testing results. If not tested, they should continue isolating for 10 days after the day of symptom onset, and if they cannot isolate, should wear a well-fitting mask for 10 days.
- Consider continuing self-isolation and retesting with an antigen or PCR test in 1-2 days if testing negative with an antigen test, particularly if tested during the first 1-2 days of symptoms.

- Continue to self-isolate if test result is positive, follow recommended actions below and contact their healthcare provider about available treatments if symptoms are severe or they are at high risk for serious disease or if they have any questions concerning their care.

Persons who test positive for Covid 19	Actions
<p>Everyone, regardless of vaccination status, previous infection or lack of symptoms.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stay home (PDF) for at least 5 days after start of symptoms (or after date of first positive test if no symptoms). • Isolation can end after Day 5 if symptoms are not present or are resolving and a diagnostic specimen* collected on Day 5 or later tests negative. • If unable to test, choosing not to test, or testing positive on Day 5 (or later), isolation can end after Day 10 if fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications. • If fever is present, isolation should be continued until 24 hours after fever resolves. • If symptoms, other than fever, are not resolving, continue to isolate until symptoms are resolving or until after Day 10. If symptoms are severe, or if the infected person is at high risk of serious disease, or if they have questions concerning care, infected persons should contact their healthcare provider for available treatments. • Per CDPH masking guidance, infected persons should wear a well-fitting mask around others for a total of 10 days, especially in indoor settings (see masking section below for additional information). <p>*Antigen test preferred.</p>

In the past, non or partially vaccinated individuals have been required to quarantine following any COVID-19 exposure. Current guidelines do not require quarantine unless symptoms develop provided the following measures are followed:

Close Contacts - General Public (No Quarantine)

Asymptomatic Persons Who are exposed to Covid-19	Actions
<p>Everyone, regardless of vaccination status.</p> <p>Persons infected within the prior 90 days do not need to be tested, quarantined, or excluded from work unless symptoms develop.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Test within 3-5 days after last exposure. ● Per CDPH masking guidance, close contacts should wear a well-fitting mask around others for a total of 10 days, especially in indoor settings and when near those at higher risk for severe COVID-19 disease (see masking section below for additional information). ● Strongly encouraged to get vaccinated or boosted. ● If symptoms develop, test and stay home (see earlier section on symptomatic persons), AND ● If test result is positive, follow isolation recommendations above.

High-Risk Exposures:

Certain exposures may be deemed higher risk for transmission, such as in a household with longer periods of exposure, or while performing unmasked activities with increased exertion and/or voice projection or during prolonged close face-face contact (e.g., during contact sports like wrestling, during indoor group singing, during crowded events where cheering occurs like games, concerts or rallies, particularly if indoors). In such cases, exposed persons should be extra vigilant in undertaking recommended mitigation measures.

Similarly, if the close contact is more likely to become infected due to being unvaccinated, immunocompromised, or if they are more likely to transmit the virus to those who are at higher risk for severe COVID-19, they should also take greater care in following recommendations to limit spreading the virus to others during the 10 days following their exposure. These close contacts should get tested and may consider quarantining or self-limiting their exposure to others and are strongly recommended to follow the testing and mitigation measures outlined in this guidance.

In addition to the CDPH recommendations, due to the highly contagious nature of COVID-19, WSCS highly recommends daily, before school antigen screening for those exposed within households.

As noted above, infected persons should isolate for five days, and mask indoors and when around others during a full 10 days following symptom onset (or positive test if no symptoms). Exposed persons should mask for 10 days following an identified close contact to someone with COVID-19, especially high-risk contacts.

All persons wearing masks should optimize mask fit and filtration, ideally through use of a [respirator](#) (N95, KN95, KF94) or surgical mask. See [Get the Most out of Masking](#) and [Masking Tips for Children](#) (PDF) for more information.

The following are [general steps](#) for people suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19 who need to self-isolate and for those exposed to someone with COVID-19 who have been instructed to quarantine or wish to self-quarantine, to prevent spread to others in homes and communities.

- Stay at home except to get medical care.
- People who are self-quarantining should consider testing at least once during days 3-5 after last exposure to inform potential diagnosis and treatment.
- Separate yourself from other people in your home. Do not have any visitors.
- Wear a mask over your nose and mouth in indoor settings, including at home if other people are present, especially if you are immunocompromised, unvaccinated, booster-eligible but have not yet received your booster dose, or at risk for severe disease, or you are around those who are immunocompromised, unvaccinated, booster eligible but have not yet received their booster dose, or at risk for severe disease.
- Avoid sharing rooms/spaces with others; if not possible, open windows to outdoor air (if safe to do so) to improve ventilation or use portable air cleaners and exhaust fans.
- Avoid using the same bathroom as others; if not possible, clean and disinfect after use.
- Cover your coughs and sneezes.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or if you can't wash your hands, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- Clean or disinfect "high-touch" surfaces routinely (at least once daily).
- Monitor your symptoms.
- If you have symptoms or are sick, you should stay away from others even if they have some protection by having been previously infected in the past 3 months or by being vaccinated.

The [self-isolation](#) (PDF) of persons who are infectious or persons who have tested positive for COVID-19 and the [self-quarantine](#) (PDF) of those exposed to someone with COVID-19 can be at home, provided the following conditions are in place.

What setup is needed if separation from others is necessary

- A separate sleeping area. If a sleeping area is shared with someone who is sick, consider the following recommendations:
 - Make sure the room has good air flow and follow CDPH [Guidance for Ventilation, Filtration, and Air Quality in Indoor Environments](#).
 - Maintain at least 6 feet between beds if possible.
 - Sleep head to toe, or with faces at least six feet apart.
- A separate bathroom or one that can be disinfected after use.

What items are needed

- A mask should be worn by the infected or exposed person when in indoor settings, including at home if other people are present, especially if the infected person is immunocompromised or is around those who are immunocompromised, unvaccinated, those that may be booster-eligible but have not yet received their booster dose, or at risk for severe disease.
- Gloves for any caregivers when touching or in contact with the person's potentially infectious secretions.
- Appropriate cleaning supplies for [cleaning and disinfecting](#) commonly touched surfaces and items.
- A thermometer for tracking occurrence and resolution of fever.

Access to necessary services

- Clinical care and clinical advice by telephone or telehealth.
- Plan for transportation for care if needed.
- Food, medications, laundry, and garbage removal.

Communication

Prompt notification to and from students and families regarding exposure to infectious diseases, including COVID-19, can allow for rapid testing, early treatment, and prevention of further spread.

Students and Staff: Please notify Becky Traum or Evelin Sanchez with any positive COVID-19 diagnosis so we may help you determine if the individual was on school grounds during their [infectious period](#).

The school: will notify individuals 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. If an exposure occurs within morning or aftercare, a campus wide notification will be made with the times and dates of the exposure. All notifications will include recommended testing days.

WSCS is required to report any on-site exposures through the CDPH SPOT Portal.

All individuals with known exposure to persons with COVID-19 should follow recommendations listed in the table above. If they remain without symptoms, students may continue to take part in all aspects of K–12 schooling including sports and extracurricular activities. As recommended above, they should wear a well-fitting mask around others for a total of 10 days and get tested 3–5 days after last exposure.

Managing COVID-19 Outbreaks:

An outbreak is defined as *three* probable or confirmed COVID-19 Cases (who are epidemiologically linked) within a 14-day period. WSCS will implement the following steps:

- During an outbreak, the class will pivot from “strongly recommended” to “required” indoor masking for the exposed group, until there are no new positives in the exposed group, in the instance of a large or prolonged outbreak, outdoor masking may also be implemented
- All individuals must **test** with at least one diagnostic test obtained within 3-5 days after last exposure (unless they had COVID-19 within the last 90 days and are asymptomatic). In the instance of a large or prolonged outbreak, test weekly until there are no new positives in the exposed group
- All high risk activities will be moved outdoors

Cleaning Facilities:

In general, routine cleaning is enough to sufficiently remove the virus that causes COVID-19 from surfaces.

Recommendations for higher risk activities:

Consuming meals indoors, singing, heavy physical activity and large gatherings all pose higher risk for transmission and to the best of our ability should be done outdoors. If conditions do not allow for these activities to be carried outside, additional spacing, masking, and optimizing ventilation should be used to mitigate the possibility of transmission.

Carpools and field trip transportation it is highly recommended that all individuals mask while sharing vehicles and windows remain open.

Overnight field trips: all attendees should test 5 and 3 days prior to departure. All sleeping assignments and carpooling groups must be preassigned and any changes must be recorded. Masking guidelines must be followed for individuals who have been exposed both prior to and during the trip, but masks should never be worn while sleeping.

Masks, hand sanitizer and a supply of covid tests will be provided.

Arrangements must be made ahead of time to transport students or chaperones who test positive while off campus.

Destinations and locations may have requirements that exceed these guidelines and must be considered prior to departure.