

## **SCHOOL REOPENING PLAN 2021-2022**

This document is designed to assist in a safe reopening for schools in the Twin Ridges Elementary School District: Grizzly Hill, Oak Tree/Little Acorns Preschool, and Washington School. We recognize the importance of returning students to school campuses for in-person instruction, as well as the overarching need to protect the health and safety of our students, school staff, and broader community. The goal of this document is to help school sites plan for and implement measures to reduce COVID-19 transmission in the school setting while meeting the educational needs of all students.

Education is an essential service in our community, and as such, the reopening of school campuses for in-person instruction with strict safety protocols should be prioritized. School closures magnify socioeconomic, racial, and other inequities among students. The students most impacted by school closures are those without access to technologies that facilitate distance learning, those whose parents comprise a disproportionate share of our community's essential workforce and may be less available to provide instructional support, and those with special needs. Disruption of normal childhood social interactions also has a profound adverse impact on students' social and emotional well-being.

TRESD has remained in close communication with The Nevada County Public Health Department and will follow their recommendations, along with the California Department of Public Health to reopen school campuses for in-person instruction and to keep them open based on a number of factors. These include, but are not limited to, continually evolving scientific understanding of COVID-19, the number of current COVID-19 cases, the degree to which schools are contributing to community spread of COVID, the capacity of our health system to identify and care for cases and prevent transmission in healthcare settings, if Nevada County is on the watch-list, county residents' ability to quickly and effectively isolate or quarantine themselves when sick, and our community's continued cooperation in practicing physical distancing, using face coverings, and taking other preventive measures.

As we prepare to resume in-person instruction, we will ensure plans are in place for students who may need to isolate or quarantine, as well as students who are medically fragile or who have a household member who is medically fragile. Schools will be prepared for the possibility of partial or full school closure, either short-term or for a longer period. Because the data regarding the impact of school reopening on COVID-19 transmission dynamics remains incomplete, we will continue to learn and revise our guidance accordingly.

This document contains a series of public health requirements, recommendations, and considerations for schools reopening their campuses for in-person instruction. These should be read in conjunction with all relevant local, state, and federal laws, as well as school reopening guidance from the state and federal government.

### **Safety Measures**

All activities are consistent with and will adjust to changing applicable state and local Public Health Orders. Training is provided to all staff and students reinforcing the importance of health and safety practices and protocols. A single point of contact will be established and identified at each school site to direct questions or concerns around practices, protocols, or potential exposure.

- a. Grizzly Hill School: Melissa Madigan
- b. Oak Tree/Little Acorns: Pam Langley
- c. Washington School: Adam Percy

K-12 students are required to mask indoors, with exemptions per CDPH face mask guidance. Adults in K-12 school settings are required to mask when sharing indoor spaces with students. Face coverings are optional outdoors for all in K-12 school settings.

Persons exempted from wearing a face-covering due to a medical condition must wear a non-restrictive alternative, such as a face shield with a drape on the bottom edge, as long as their condition permits it.

Schools will provide a face covering to students who inadvertently fail to bring a face covering to school to prevent unnecessary exclusions.

Consistent with guidance from the 2020-21 school year, schools must develop and implement local protocols to enforce the mask requirements. Additionally, schools should offer alternative educational opportunities for students who are excluded from campus because they will not wear a face covering. Note: Public schools should be aware of the requirements in AB 130 to offer independent study programs for the 2021-22 school year. Mask enforcement protocols have been developed:

1. Request to wear a mask and provide one
2. After multiple occurrences, refer to Independent Study

### **Physical Distancing:**

Recent evidence 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.

### **Ventilation:**

For indoor spaces, ventilation should be optimized, air filters checked and cleaned regularly.

### **Hand Hygiene:**

Teach and reinforce washing hands, avoiding contact with one's eyes, nose, and mouth, and covering coughs and sneezes among students and staff. Promote handwashing throughout the day, especially before and after eating, after using the toilet, and after handling garbage, or removing gloves. Ensure adequate supplies to support healthy hygiene behaviors, including soap, tissues, no-touch trash cans, face coverings, and hand sanitizers with at least 60 percent ethyl alcohol for staff and children who can safely use hand sanitizer

### **Cleaning:**

In general, cleaning once a day is usually enough to sufficiently remove potential viruses that may be on surfaces. Disinfecting (using disinfectants on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency COVID-19 list) removes any remaining germs on surfaces, which further reduces any risk of spreading infection. If a facility has had a sick person with COVID-19 within the last 24 hours, clean AND disinfect the spaces occupied by that person during that time. Food Service: Maximize physical distance as much as possible while eating (especially indoors). Using additional spaces outside of the cafeteria for mealtime seating such as classrooms or the gymnasium can help facilitate distancing. Arrange for eating outdoors as much as feasible. Clean frequently touched surfaces. Surfaces that come in contact with food should be washed, rinsed, and sanitized before and after meals. Given the very low risk of transmission from surfaces and shared objects, there is no need to limit food service approaches to single-use items and packaged meals.

### **Sports and Extracurricular Activities:**

School-sponsored sports and extracurricular activities provide students with enrichment opportunities that can help them learn and achieve, and support their social, emotional, and mental health. People who are fully vaccinated no longer need to wear a mask or physically distance themselves in any outdoor setting, including while participating in sports and extracurricular activities. People who are fully vaccinated can also refrain from quarantine following a known exposure if asymptomatic, facilitating continued participation in in-person learning, sports, and extracurricular activities. Due to increased exhalation that occurs during physical activity, some sports can put players, coaches, trainers, and others who are not fully vaccinated at increased risk for getting and spreading COVID-19. Close contact sports and indoor sports are particularly risky. Similar risks might exist for other extracurricular activities, such as band, choir, theater, and school clubs that meet indoors. Prevention strategies for those who are not fully vaccinated in these activities remain important. Students should refrain from these activities when they have symptoms consistent with COVID-19 and should be tested. Students who are not fully vaccinated and participate in indoor sports and other higher-risk activities should continue to wear masks and keep their physical distance as much as possible.

### **School Events:**

Assemblies and other gatherings will be permitted to the extent allowed under any applicable requirements for gatherings occurring in the community. Attendance at school events should be limited to students and staff or those participating in a presentation only.

### **Health Screenings:**

All students and staff must screen for symptoms each day prior to arriving on campus. Symptom screenings do not need to be performed by a nurse or other health professional. Staff and students may not come on campus if experiencing any of the symptoms on the list. If COVID-19 symptoms develop during the school day, staff or students must be sent home immediately until testing and/or medical evaluation has been conducted. Post signs at all entrances instructing students, staff, and visitors not to enter campus if they have any COVID-19 symptoms. COVID-19 symptoms include fever, chills, cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea.

### **COVID Tracking Tracing and Protocols**

Getting tested for COVID-19 when symptoms are consistent with COVID-19 will help with rapid contact tracing and prevent possible spread at schools.

Advise staff members and students with symptoms of COVID-19 infection not to return for in-person instruction until they have met CDPH criteria to return to school for those with symptoms:

- At least 24 hours have passed since resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications; and
- Other symptoms have improved; and
- They have a negative test for SARS-CoV-2, OR a healthcare provider has provided documentation that the symptoms are typical of their underlying chronic condition (e.g., allergies or asthma) OR a healthcare provider has confirmed an alternative named diagnosis (e.g., Streptococcal pharyngitis, Coxsackie virus), OR at least 10 days have passed since symptom onset.

For those who are vaccinated, follow the CDPH Fully Vaccinated People Guidance regarding quarantine.

### **Case Reporting, Contact Tracing, and Investigation:**

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.

TRESA COVID-19 liaisons: All office staff and administration will assist the local health department with contact tracing and investigation.

#### Community Testing Sites:

Testing is available for anyone, whether or not you have insurance. You must pre-register and schedule an appointment at <https://www.lhi.care/covidtesting> or call 1-888-634-1123.

For assistance scheduling a COVID-19 test, contact 211. Connecting Point at 1-833-DIAL211 to speak to a local call specialist.

Appointments are available Monday-Saturday, 7:00 am to 3:00 pm in Grass Valley and Monday-Friday, 7:00am to 7:00pm in Truckee.

Return time for results may vary and can be expected within 2-7 days.

Testing Locations Western Nevada County 231 Colfax Avenue, Grass Valley, CA 95945 (formerly Summer Thymes)

According to the Nevada County Public Health Department, tests can also still be conducted by doctor's offices too, but you do not need your physician's approval to be tested at the OptumServe site. Call your primary care physician before physically going to the doctor.

Please note that return time for results may vary and can be expected within 2-7 days.

If you do not have a primary care physician, please call the Coronavirus Call Center through Connecting Point by dialing 2-1-1 or 1-833-DIAL211 to talk with a call center representative.

The call center representatives at 211 can help with all non-emergency and non-medical inquiries.

#### **Suspected COVID-19 Case(s):**

- Work with school administrators, nurses, and other healthcare providers to identify an area to separate anyone who exhibits COVID-19 symptoms.
- Any students or staff exhibiting symptoms should immediately be required to wear a face-covering and wait in an isolation area until they can be transported home or to a healthcare facility, as soon as practicable. For serious illness, call 9-1-1 without delay.

#### **Confirmed COVID-19 Case(s):**

- School administrators should notify the Nevada County Public Health Department immediately of any positive COVID-19 case. Notify all staff and families in the school

community of any positive COVID-19 case while maintaining confidentiality as required by state and federal laws.

- Close off areas used by any sick person and do not use them before cleaning and disinfection. To reduce the risk of exposure, wait 24 hours before you clean and disinfect. If it is not possible to wait 24 hours, wait as long as practicable. Ensure a safe and correct application of disinfectants using personal protective equipment and ventilation.
- Utilize class seating rosters and consultation with teachers/staff to identify close contacts to the confirmed COVID-19 case in all classrooms and on-campus activities. A close contact is someone who has been within six feet of the case for a prolonged period of time (at least 10-15 minutes) regardless of face-covering use.

### **Quarantine Students: Exposure**

When both parties were wearing a mask in the indoor classroom setting, unvaccinated students who are close contacts (more than 15 minutes over a 24-hour period within 0-6 feet indoors) may undergo a modified 10-day quarantine as follows. They may continue to attend school for in-person instruction if they:

- Are asymptomatic;
- Continue to appropriately mask, as required;
- Undergo at least twice weekly testing during the 10-day quarantine;
- Continue to quarantine for all extracurricular activities at school, including sports, and activities within the community setting.

Quarantine recommendations for unvaccinated close contacts who were not wearing masks or for whom the infected individual was not wearing a mask during the indoor exposure; or unvaccinated students as described above.

For these contacts, those who remain asymptomatic, meaning they have NOT had any symptoms, may discontinue self-quarantine under the following conditions:

- Quarantine can end after Day 10 from the date of last exposure without testing; or
- Quarantine can end after Day 7 if a diagnostic specimen is collected after Day 5 from the date of last exposure and tests negative.

To discontinue quarantine before 14 days following last known exposure, asymptomatic close contacts must: Continue daily self-monitoring for symptoms through Day 14 from last known exposure; AND Follow all recommended non-pharmaceutical interventions (e.g., wearing a mask when around others, hand washing, avoiding crowds) through Day 14 from last known exposure.

If any symptoms develop during this 14-day period, the exposed person must immediately isolate, get tested and contact their healthcare provider with any questions regarding their care.

### **Quarantine Staff: Exposure:**

When both parties were wearing a mask in the indoor classroom setting, unvaccinated staff who are close contacts (more than 15 minutes over a 24-hour period within 0-6 feet indoors) may undergo a modified 10-day quarantine as follows.

They may continue to attend school for in-person instruction if they:

- Are asymptomatic;
- Continue to appropriately mask, as required;
- Undergo at least twice weekly testing during the 10-day quarantine;

Quarantine recommendations for unvaccinated close contacts who were not wearing masks or for whom the infected individual was not wearing a mask during the indoor exposure; or unvaccinated staff as described above.

For these contacts, those who remain asymptomatic, meaning they have NOT had any symptoms, may discontinue self-quarantine under the following conditions:

- Quarantine can end after Day 10 from the date of last exposure without testing; OR \*
- Quarantine can end after Day 7 if a diagnostic specimen is collected after Day 5 from the date of last exposure and tests negative.

To discontinue quarantine before 14 days following last known exposure, asymptomatic close contacts must: Continue daily self-monitoring for symptoms through Day 14 from last known exposure; AND Follow all recommended non-pharmaceutical interventions (e.g., wearing a mask when around others, hand washing, avoiding crowds) through Day 14 from last known exposure.

If any symptoms develop during this 14-day period, the exposed person must immediately isolate, get tested and contact their healthcare provider with any questions regarding their care.

### **Communication**

Response to Confirmed or Suspected COVID-19 Cases and Close Contacts:

Scenario 1: A student or staff member either exhibits COVID-19 symptoms, answers “yes” to a health screening question, or has a temperature of 100.2 or above.

- Student/staff sent home
- Student/staff instructed to get tested
- No action is needed

Scenario 2: A family member or someone in close contact with a student or staff member (outside the school community) tests positive for COVID-19

- Student/staff sent home
- Student/staff instructed to get tested

- Student/staff instructed to quarantine, even if they test negative, for a full 14 days after (1) date of last exposure to COVID-19 positive non-household contact or (2) COVID-19 positive household member completes their isolation

- If student/staff test positive, see Scenario 3 below
- School administration notified
- For the Involved Student Family or Staff Member: sent letter: Household Member or Close Contact With COVID-19 Case Scenario 3: A student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19.
  - Student/staff sent home if not already quarantined
  - Student/staff instructed to isolate for 14 days after symptom onset OR 7 days after resolution of symptoms, whichever is longer. (If never symptomatic, isolate for 14 days after positive test.)
  - School-based close contacts identified and instructed to test & quarantine for 14 days
  - School administration notified ●
  - Public Health Department notified

### **Response to Negative Test Result:**

A student or staff member tests negative for COVID-19 after Scenario 1 (symptomatic)

- Student/staff may return to school 72 hours after resolution of fever and improvement in other symptoms
- Student family/staff to bring evidence of negative COVID-19 test or medical note if testing not performed
- A student or staff member tests negative after Scenario 2 (close contact)
- Student/staff must remain in quarantine for a full 14 days after (1) date of last exposure to COVID-19 positive non-household contact or (2) date that COVID-19 positive household member completes their isolation
  - No action is needed
  - A student or staff member tests negative after routine surveillance testing (no symptoms and no close contact to a confirmed COVID-19 case)
    - Can return to school/work immediately
    - No action is needed Isolation: For both vaccinated and unvaccinated persons, follow the CDPH Isolation Guidance for those diagnosed with COVID-19.