



MUSD Safe Return to In-Person Instruction Plan HEALTH & SAFETY

The safety and security of our students, parents, staff, and community are of the highest concern. The prevention, mitigation, and educational measures developed below will be implemented at each school site and district facility. The district has set forth rules and regulations which pertain to the latest guidelines for school reopening. These measures continue to be the best defense against the spread of COVID-19. The following narrative outlines McFarland Unified School Districts health and safety protocols as it directly relates to reopening of school for the 2021-2022 school year.

The safety measures that follow were drafted in conjunction with the [California Department of Public Health](#), [Center for Disease Control](#), [California Department of Education](#), [Kern County Public Health](#), and [COVID-19 Industry Standards](#)

The McFarland Unified School District shall implement the following measures to ensure the safety and well-being of all students, parents, staff, and community members.

Healthy Hygiene Practices

All staff and students are expected to follow proper hygiene practices while at our sites or facilities.

- ❖ Teach and reinforce washing hands, avoiding contact with one's eyes, nose, and mouth, and covering coughs and sneezes among students and staff.
- ❖ Promote hand washing 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.

Face Coverings:

All student, staff, parent, community member shall properly wear face mask and shield in accordance with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) guidelines:

- ❖ Masks are **required** for all students and all adults in any indoor K-12 setting.
- ❖ As long as all parties are wearing masks, social distancing requirements are not necessary.

- ❖ Persons exempted from wearing a face mask 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. Meeting with site administration is necessary.
- ❖ All staff **will enforce** mask requirements for all students and adults entering the campus.
- ❖ Outdoor activities, such as Recess, PE, or athletics, masks are optional.
- ❖ Students and staff are to show up to the school site with proper face coverings.
- ❖ We ask that parents pack a spare mask in their students backpack for emergency purposes. Any needed mask would be available at the school/site office.

For further face covering guidance see:

[CDPH](#)

Physical Distance:

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](#).

Outdoor Activities:

- ❖ Outdoor activities such as Recess, PE or athletics, masks are optional.

Lunch

- ❖ Masks are to be worn entering the building, retrieving food, and walking to table(s).
- ❖ Masks can be removed for eating purposes, but must be properly returned to use once finished eating.
- ❖ Staff must ensure there is no crowding of tables. Everyone must have a seat with appropriate elbow room.

Transportation:

- ❖ All students and staff must properly wear masks during the entire trip.
- ❖ As long as all parties are wearing masks, social distancing requirements are not necessary.

Drinking Fountains:

All drinking fountains will remain “out of order” until further notice. Students will need to bring bottled water or refillable containers during school hours.

COVID-19 Quarantine Locations:

All school sites will adhere to mandates for isolation should a student or staff member fall ill. Each school site will have a quarantine area located in the front office if needed.

Quarantine/Isolation Protocols:

The McFarland Unified School District follows guidance outlined by [CDC](#), [CDPH](#) and [KCPH](#) as it relates to Quarantine and Isolation of students and adults. Site administration is responsible for investigating and documenting close contact of students and staff. Administration fills out the KCPH form and distributes the form to all parties noted for follow up from the Public Health department.

Recommendations for staying home:

- ❖ Follow the strategy for Staying Home when Sick and Getting Tested from the [CDC](#).
- ❖ 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.

Screenings for Students and Staff Students:

- ❖ In K-12 schools, screening testing can help promptly identify and isolate cases, quarantine those who may have been exposed to COVID-19 and are not fully vaccinated, and identify clusters to reduce the risk to in-person education.
- ❖ Screening testing may be most valuable in areas with substantial or high community transmission levels, in areas with low vaccination coverage, and in schools where other prevention strategies are not implemented.
- ❖ Screening testing should be done in a way that ensures the ability to maintain confidentiality of results and protect student, teacher, and staff privacy. Consistent with state legal requirements and [Family Educational Rights and](#)

[Privacy Act \(FERPA\)](#), K-12 schools should obtain parental consent for minor students and assent/consent for students themselves.

- ❖ To facilitate safe participation in sports, extracurricular activities, and other activities with elevated risk (such as activities that involve singing, shouting, band, and exercise that could lead to increased exhalation), schools may consider implementing screening testing for all participants. Schools can routinely test student athletes, participants, coaches, and trainers, and other people (such as adult volunteers) who are or are not fully vaccinated and could come into close contact with others during these activities. Schools can use different screening testing strategies for lower-risk sports.
- ❖ High-risk sports and extracurricular activities should be virtual or canceled in areas of high community transmission unless all participants are fully vaccinated.

Table 1. Screening Testing Recommendations for K-12 Schools by Level of Community Transmission

	Low Transmission ¹ Blue	Moderate Transmission Yellow	Substantial Transmission Orange	High Transmission Red
Students	Do not need to screen students.	Offer screening testing for students who are not fully vaccinated at least once per week.		
Teachers and staff	Offer screening testing for teachers and staff who are not fully vaccinated at least once per week.			
High risk sports and activities	Recommend screening testing for high-risk sports ² and extracurricular activities ³ at least once per week for participants who are not fully vaccinated.		Recommend screening testing for high-risk sports and extracurricular activities twice per week for participants who are not fully vaccinated.	Cancel or hold high-risk sports and extracurricular activities virtually to protect in-person learning, unless all participants are fully vaccinated.
Low- and intermediate-risk sports	Do not need to screen students participating in low- and intermediate-risk sports. ²	Recommend screening testing for low- and intermediate-risk sports at least once per week for participants who are not fully vaccinated.		

1 [Levels of community transmission](#) defined as total new cases per 100,000 persons in the past 7 days (low, 0-9; moderate 10-49; substantial, 50-99, high, ≥100) and percentage of positive tests in the past 7 days (low, <5%; moderate, 5-7.9%; substantial, 8-9.9%; high, ≥10%.)

2 The NCAA has developed a risk stratification for sports. See https://ncaaorg.s3.amazonaws.com/ssi/COVID/SSI_ResocializationDevelopingStandardsSecondEdition.pdf -Examples of low-risk sports are diving and golf; intermediate-risk sport examples are baseball and cross country; high-risk sport examples are football and wrestling.

3 High-risk extracurricular activities are those in which increased exhalation occurs, such as activities that involve singing, shouting, band, or exercise, especially when conducted indoors.

***Table copied from [CDC](#).

Cleaning & Disinfecting Standards:

The McFarland Unified School District has developed new cleaning standards and routines that are based on CDC guidelines with EPA Approved Chemicals. These new procedures have been implemented at each school site/facility in the district.

- ❖ 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.
- ❖ For more information on cleaning a facility regularly, when to clean more frequently or disinfect, cleaning a facility when someone is sick, safe storage of cleaning and disinfecting products, and considerations for protecting workers who clean facilities, see [Cleaning and Disinfecting Your Facility](#).
- ❖ 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.

Ventilation

Improving ventilation is an important COVID-19 prevention strategy that can reduce the number of virus particles in the air. Along with [other preventive strategies](#), including wearing a [well-fitting mask](#), bringing fresh outdoor air into a building helps keep virus particles from concentrating inside. The McFarland Unified School District has been proactive in improving ventilation for all classrooms. We have purchased and installed Ionizers in all facility units to assist with filtering air within classrooms and buildings. We also suggest the following guidance to minimize COVID concentrations:

- ❖ Opening doors and windows (taking into consideration any safety concerns).
- ❖ Using child-safe fans or air purifiers to increase the effectiveness of open windows.
- ❖ During transportation, open or crack windows in buses or vans (taking into consideration any safety concerns). Keeping windows open a few inches improves air circulation.
- ❖ For further ventilation information:
 - [CDC's Ventilation in Schools and Child Care Programs](#)
 - [CDC's Ventilation in Buildings webpage](#)
 - [CDC's Ventilation FAQs](#)
 - [CDC's Improving Ventilation in Your Home](#)

COVID Safety Plan Transparency:

- ❖ In order to build trust in the school community and support successful return to school, it is a [best practice](#) to provide transparency to the school community regarding the school's safety plans. It is recommended that at a minimum all local educational agencies (LEAs) post a safety plan, communicating the safety measures in place for 2021-22, on the LEA's

website and at schools, and disseminate to families in advance of the start of the school year.

Continuity of Services for EL Students and Students with Special Needs:

- ❖ Provide accommodations, modifications, and assistance for all students, teachers, and staff with disabilities and other health care needs when implementing COVID-19 safety protocols:
 - Work with families to better understand the individual needs of EL and students with disabilities.
 - Remain accessible for students with disabilities:
 - Help provide access for direct service providers (DSP) (e.g., paraprofessionals, therapists, early intervention specialists, mental health and healthcare consultants, and others). If DSPs who are not fully vaccinated provide services at more than one location, ask whether any of their other service locations have had COVID-19 cases.
 - Ensure access to services for students with disabilities
 - Ensure access to services for EL students should they need assistance.
 - Adjust strategies as needed
 - Be aware that physical distancing and wearing masks can be difficult for young children and people with certain disabilities (for example, visual or hearing impairments) or for those with sensory or cognitive issues.
 - For people who are not fully vaccinated and only able to wear masks some of the time for the reasons above, prioritize having them wear masks during times when it is difficult to separate students and/or teachers and staff (e.g., while standing in line or during drop off and pick up).
 - Consider having teachers and staff who are not fully vaccinated wear a clear or cloth mask with a clear panel when interacting with young students, students learning to read, or when interacting with people who rely on reading lips.
 - Use behavioral techniques (such as modeling and reinforcing desired behaviors and using picture schedules, timers, visual cues, and positive reinforcement) to help all students adjust to transitions or changes in routines.

Visitor/Volunteer/Vendor Restrictions:

All school offices will remain open. The following procedures will be enforced:

- ❖ All Vendors will deliver supplies to the front office or alternative location at the direction of site administration.
- ❖ All meetings with the public will be by appointment and determined by site administration.
- ❖ All staff meetings, IEP, 504, etc. will be conducted in-person but could be scheduled virtually as needed.

Surveillance/Contact Tracing

Under the guidance of CDPH and Kern County Department of Public Health the District has made arrangements for periodic surveillance testing for COVID-19 on an ongoing rotating schedule with further clarification of testing mandates, expectations, and procedures from CDPH. Employees will be granted a COVID-19 test free of charge if requested.

The McFarland Unified School District systematically tests employees working on-site. This process is managed and tracked by the District's Human Resource Office. MUSD has outlined on-site personnel to be tested for COVID-19 each week, or as outlined by [CDC/CDPH](#).

Vaccinations:

The McFarland Unified School District partnered with Adventist Health, Delano, to provide multiple vaccination clinics to administer 1st, 2nd, and Booster shots for staff. Adventist Health will continue to provide a mobile clinic for the McFarland community to assist with necessary healthcare and vaccinations.

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