



Forest Charter School Safe Reopening Plan

Charter Council Approved August 11, 2021

Updated October 12, 2021, March 28, 2022, and December 2, 2022

Introduction and Overview

The following School Plan for Safe Reopening is a collaboration between the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), Center for Disease Control (CDC), California Department of Education (CDE), The Nevada County Public Health Department, and the Nevada County Superintendent of Schools (NCSoS) to create a comprehensive plan to get students back to school safely.

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. 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.

Safety Measures

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.

CDPH 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.

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 and other airborne allergens and pollutants.

Forest Charter has installed MERV-13 air filters at our Nevada City and Truckee learning centers. Additionally, we have established ventilation system cleaning protocols to ensure proper ventilation. Additionally, we have purchased portable HEPA air purifiers for each classroom at all learning centers.

Using Facemasks:

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.

No person can be prevented from wearing a mask as a condition of participation in an activity or entry into a school, unless wearing a mask would pose a safety hazard (e.g., watersports).

FCS will provide face masks for students who forget them and desire to wear one.

Getting Tested for COVID-19:

Testing remains a key mitigation layer to detect and curb transmission of COVID-19. FCS will ensure access to COVID-19 at home test kits for students and staff free of charge at all learning centers.

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).

Maintaining Clean Hands:

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

FCS will teach and reinforce proper handwashing to lower the risk of spreading viruses, including the virus that causes COVID-19.

FCS will ensure adequate supplies to support hand hygiene behaviors, including soap, tissues, no-touch trash cans, and hand sanitizers with at least 60 percent alcohol for staff and children who can safely use hand sanitizer.

FCS 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 December 31, 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.

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.

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 results are positive.

All symptoms and positive test results should be reported using our Covid Health Support email (covidhealthsupport@forestcharter.com) or [online reporting form](#).

Reporting COVID-19 disease burden to local health authorities:

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

FCS refers 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.

As workplaces, schools are subject to COVID-19 workplace outbreak reporting requirements stipulated in AB 685 and Cal/OSHA Emergency Temporary Standards.

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.

Students diagnosed with COVID-19 should follow recommendations listed in Table 1 (Persons with COVID-19) of CDPH's guidance for the general public, including staying home for at least 5 days and wearing a well-fitting mask around others for a total of 10 days, especially in indoor settings.

Managing Students Exposed to COVID-19:

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

FCS will provide 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.

Managing COVID-19 Outbreaks:

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

FCS will work with the local health departments to determine next steps during a COVID outbreak

Cleaning Facilities:

In general, routine cleaning is enough to sufficiently remove the virus that causes COVID-19 from surfaces. If disinfectants are used, use asthma-safer products.

Drinking fountains may be open and used by students and staff. Routine cleaning is recommended.