

**Modesto City Schools 2023 - 2024**

# **COVID-19 SAFETY PLAN**

**Safe Return to In-Person Instruction & Continuity of Services Plan**

**REV. 8.1.23**



## **WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL!**

We are excited to welcome all students back to school in Modesto City Schools on August 7, 2023, in a full-time and in-person learning environment. Our COVID-19 Safety Plan has been updated for the 2022-23 school year following current California of Department of Public Health (CDPH) guidance. This guidance continues to emphasize the importance of universal masking in schools (recommended, but not required), daily self-screening, classroom ventilation, hand hygiene, and testing to support full-time, in-person instruction and minimize missed days of school. The classroom is the best place for students to learn and with these layered, mitigation strategies in place, we believe our school campuses are safe for both students and staff. We look forward to a great year!!





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## AUTHORITY & RESOURCES

Modesto City Schools 2023-2024 COVID-19 Safety Plan (CSP) supersedes all previous versions. This document is in accordance with California Department of Public Health (CDPH) COVID-19 Guidance for K-12 Schools and CAL/OSHA guidance, directives that apply to all public and private schools operating in California to support school communities as they implement plans for safe, successful, and full in-person instruction. This guidance is designed to enable all schools to offer and provide full in-person instruction to all students safely, consistent with the current scientific evidence about COVID-19. Modesto City Schools will update this plan as needed to follow health guidelines pursuant to state and local requirements.

## COVID-19 RESOURCES

- [COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools in California, 2022-2023 School Year](#)
- [CDPH Guidance for the Use of Face Coverings](#)
- [State of CA Safe Schools for All Hub](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools](#)
- [Stanislaus County Health Services Agency](#)
- [Stanislaus County COVID-19 Dashboard](#)

## MODESTO CITY SCHOOLS COVID-19 RESOURCES

To view the COVID-19 Dashboard, Daily Cases Report, Testing Schedule and additional resources, click here: <https://www.mcs4kids.com/page/covid-19-data-resources>.

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## MASK RECOMMENDATIONS

According to the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), masks are one of the most effective and simplest safety mitigation layers to prevent in-school transmission of COVID-19 infections and to support full-time, in-person instruction in schools.

Although masks are no longer required in schools, Modesto City Schools will have face coverings available for students upon request.

## PHYSICAL DISTANCING

CDPH and CDC agree that in-person instruction can occur safely without physical distancing when other essential mitigation strategies are implemented; safety measures such as recommended universal masking in schools, classroom ventilation, and daily self-screening promote both safety and in-person learning by reducing the need for physical distancing both indoors and outdoors.

Students will not need to be physically distanced during recess, lunch periods, or structured play periods. CDPH recommends focusing on other mitigation strategies instead of implementing minimum physical distancing requirements for routine classroom instruction.

## CLEANING & DISINFECTION

### *Cleaning Protocol*

CDPH acknowledges that routine cleaning is usually sufficient to remove the potential virus that may be on surfaces. Disinfecting removes any remaining germs on surfaces, which further reduces any risk of spreading infection. Modesto City Schools continues to perform regular cleaning and disinfection.

## HEALTHY HYGIENE PRACTICES

All Modesto City Schools school sites teach and reinforce healthy hygiene practices including hand washing, avoiding touching one's face, and covering one's mouth when sneezing or coughing. Hand washing is promoted throughout the day, especially before and after eating.

Modesto City Schools and individual school sites ensure that campuses have adequate supplies readily available to support healthy hygiene behaviors including face coverings, soap, tissues, no-touch trash cans, and hand sanitizers with at least 60% ethyl alcohol.

## MEALS ON CAMPUS

We will maximize space as much as possible while eating. Outdoor eating will be arranged as much as feasible, weather-permitting.

Per the CDPH, given the very low risk of transmission from surfaces and shared objects, we no longer limit food service to single-use items and packaged meals.



## VENTILATION

### *Classrooms and Buildings*

Indoor environments such as classrooms, offices, and multi-use facilities will continue to be sufficiently ventilated for the health and safety of students and staff. All Modesto City Schools classrooms have MERV-13 rated filters installed and staff is encouraged to open doors/windows to increase ventilation. HEPA filtration is also provided District wide in classrooms and office areas.

### *Buses/Transportation*

All Modesto City Schools buses and vans will open windows open to improve ventilation (weather permitting)..



## VISITORS

Modesto City Schools will continue to limit nonessential visitors, volunteers, and activities involving external groups or organizations with people who are not fully vaccinated.

The District will not limit access for direct service providers but will ensure compliance with all school visitor policies.

The District will continue to emphasize the importance of staying home when sick.

## SELF-SCREENING FOR COVID-19 SYMPTOMS

Staying home when symptomatic is an essential safety measure to prevent the spread of infection in our schools. Students and staff should screen for symptoms prior to reporting to school/work. If exhibiting symptoms associated with COVID-19, students and staff should stay home, notify their school/supervisor, and are encouraged to seek medical care and get tested.

### Symptoms of COVID-19:

- Fever of 100 degrees or higher or chills
- (Persistent) cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Loss of taste or smell
- Headache
- Sore throat
- Muscle or body aches
- Fatigue
- Vomiting, nausea, diarrhea, or abdominal pain
- Runny nose, congestion, itchy or red eyes

**Students or staff who are exhibiting symptoms consistent with COVID-19 should not return to school/work until they have met the following requirements:**

- 1. Doctor's Note:** Student/staff can return to school/work if they provide a note from doctor confirming another underlying medical condition OR a note from doctor confirming another non-COVID-19 diagnosis. May return to school/work 24 hours from visit with no fever (or use of fever-reducing medicine) and improved symptoms.
- 2. COVID-19 Test:**
  - Positive: Must isolate for 5 days from symptom onset or positive test if asymptomatic. May return to school/work with no fever (or use of fever-reducing medicine) and no new symptoms.
  - A negative test is not required to return to school or work.
- 3. Testing:** Home COVID antigen tests are available at school sites and the District Health Office for students and employees at no cost.



## Illness/COVID-19 Reporting

All school websites have a "insert link" link for parents to complete if their student is symptomatic, a close contact outside school, or positive for COVID-19.





## CONTACT TRACING, CASE REPORTING & COMMUNICATION

**Contact Tracing and Case Reporting:** Modesto City Schools will continue to track and document COVID-19 cases throughout the District and is required to report outbreaks to Stanislaus County Health Services Agency (SCHSA) utilizing the SPOT System. Site Principals/Supervisors will be leads on contact tracing investigations. The Health Services Director will serve as the District's liaison when assisting the local health department with contact tracing and investigation.

**Communication:** Modesto City Schools will follow the CDPH Group Contact Tracing protocol and the location and last day on campus of positive cases will be posted to the School Exposures page: <https://www.mcs4kids.com/page/covid-19-data-resources>. Testing within 3-5 days is recommended for anyone who may have been exposed.

Specific school communities will be notified by Modesto City Schools if a COVID-19 outbreak should occur. An outbreak involves at least three probable or confirmed epidemiologically linked COVID-19 cases within a 14-day period in individuals from different households.

## ISOLATION FOR POSITIVE CASES

**Isolation:** Separate those infected with a contagious disease from people who are not infected. The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) [Isolation Guidance](#) recommends persons with COVID-19 who have symptoms and were instructed to stay home may discontinue self-isolation under the following conditions:

- At least 5 days have passed since symptom onset; AND
- At least 24 hours have passed since resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications; AND
- Other symptoms have improved
- A negative test is not required to return to school or work

For persons with COVID-19 who are asymptomatic, meaning they have NOT had any symptoms, CDPH recommends that these persons be instructed to stay home. Under this recommendation, they may discontinue self-isolation under the following conditions:

- At least 5 days have passed since the date of the first positive COVID-19 diagnostic test. A negative test is not required to return to school or work. If they develop symptoms, then the strategies for discontinuing self-isolation for symptomatic persons should be used.

Note: If an exposed student/staff member tested positive for COVID-19 before their new, recent exposure, and it has been less than 3 months since they started having symptoms from that previous infection (or since their first positive COVID-19 test if asymptomatic), they do not need to quarantine, as long as they have not had any new symptoms since their recent exposure to someone with COVID-19.

## QUARANTINE

**Quarantine:** Restricts the movement of persons who were exposed to a contagious disease in case they become infected.

Quarantine is no longer required for someone who is exposed to COVID-19. However, masking indoors is strongly recommended for students and required for employees for 10 days from exposure. Testing is recommended for students and required for employees 3-5 days after the date of exposure.



## SCHOOL EXPOSURE

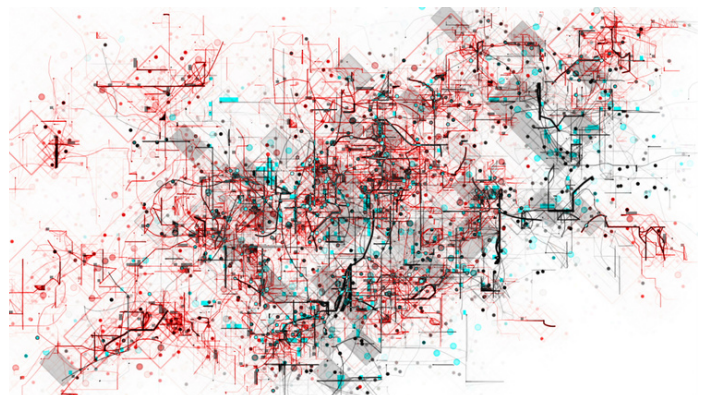
**Group Contact Tracing:**

1. Notify students who spend more than a cumulative total of 15 minutes (within a 24-hour time period) in a shared indoor space (e.g. classroom) with a positive individual during their infectious period (2 days prior to symptom onset or if no symptoms, two days prior to test date). School exposures posted daily at <https://www.mcs4kids.com/page/covid-19-data-resources>.
2. Exposed students, regardless of COVID-19 vaccine status or prior infection, are strongly recommended to get tested for COVID-19 within 3-5 days after exposure.
3. Exposed students who participate in testing may continue to take part in all aspects of K-12 schooling, including sports and extra-curricular activities, unless they develop symptoms or test positive for COVID-19.



## HOME EXPOSURE

Students, regardless of vaccination status, may continue to attend school as long as they remain asymptomatic. They are strongly recommended to wear a mask indoors. Testing is recommended.





## COVID-19 Testing

Modesto City Schools offers COVID-19 antigen home tests to students and staff by request. It is recommended that any student who leaves school for illness take a COVID-19 antigen home test to verify the presence of COVID-19. The COVID-19 antigen home test kits are available at all school sites and the District Health Office.

## ALTERNATIVE LEARNING OPTIONS

For families interested in an alternative learning options, please contact Modesto Virtual Academy at <https://www.mcs4kids.com/o/mcs/page/modesto-virtual-academy>.

## COVID-19 Vaccine

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) strongly recommends COVID-19 vaccination for all eligible people in California, including teachers, staff, students, and adults sharing homes with these members of our K-12 communities.

Students and staff who are fully vaccinated are not required to quarantine if exposed unless they become symptomatic. COVID-19 vaccinations and boosters are available at local pharmacies. Appointments may be made by visiting <https://myturn.ca.gov/>



**COVID-19 vaccines**  
are available for youth ages 5+

[VaccinateALL58.com](https://VaccinateALL58.com)

Vaccinate  
ALL 58



**MODESTO  
CITY SCHOOLS**  
EVERY STUDENT MATTERS, EVERY MOMENT COUNTS