Goleta Union School District

COVID Safety Plan

www.goleta.k12.ca.us

Introduction and Intent

Goleta Union School District's (GUSD) COVID Safety Plan is designed to be in alignment with Center for Disease Control (CDC), CalOSHA, California Department of Public Health (CDPH), California Department of Education (CDE), and Santa Barbara Public Health Department (SBPHD). The foundational principle of this plan is to support students' access to safe and full in-person instruction to the greatest extent possible. The District recognizes the impact when there are changes to the COVID Safety Plan, and we do our best to minimize the effects of the impacts while keeping everyone safe. We appreciate everyone's flexibility and patience as we respond to recommendations and mandates released by various agencies. Although we are doing our best to respond to guidelines, inevitably there will be more changes to come.

The purpose and intent of the COVID Safety Plan is to provide a safe environment at school. The District is committed to balancing the health and safety of its students, staff, and families while continuing to provide a top tier educational program. Our intent is to optimize instructional time and support the social and emotional needs of our students and staff.

Learning Options

GUSD provides a full-time, in-person schedule of instruction with students in stable learning groups. A stable group is a group with fixed membership that stays together without mixing with other groups, and school sites will arrange the master schedule with grade-level stable groups with the exception of services for specialized groups, such as students with IEPs. Class size will be reduced in all grades K - 6th grade to support possible learning loss and support physical distancing to the greatest extent possible. All subjects will be taught during the in-person school day, including special subjects (art, music, PE, STEAM). Some individuals may be employed to support special programming, with stable groups remaining in effect. If a student is required to be quarantined, short term independent study will be provided to ensure ongoing learning.

For the 2021-2022 school year, each school district in California is required to offer an independent study option to students and families to be made available to students whose health would be put at risk by in-person instruction, as determined by the parent or guardian. A student who participates in GUSD's Independent Study Program will primarily receive instruction from

a parent/guardian and work independently through assignments, following the learning plan and utilizing district materials assigned weekly by an Independent Study teacher. Students in Independent Study will be required to follow the same curriculum standards, as well as expectations for work completion and expected academic progress, as our in-person instructional program.

Health Screening

Goleta Union School District expects all staff and families to self-screen symptoms daily. Parents/guardians shall screen their child or their symptoms everyday prior to entering a district school site/work site or a GUSD bus. If a student, family member of a student, or employee has any of the following symptoms, they will not enter a school site and will notify their school administrator:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Runny nose or congestion

Transportation

To ensure that Home-to-School Transportation is safe and efficient, the following procedures will be implemented:

- Buses will be sanitized prior to leaving the bus facility. This will include wiping down all touch surfaces, such as handrails, seats, backrests, backs of seats, steering wheel and shifter handles, door handles, mirrors, etc.
- Parents will self-screen their students prior to entering the bus.
- Parents will remain with students until cleared to enter the bus.
- Masks will be required to improve protection while riding the bus.
- Only students and school staff will be permitted on the school bus. The bus will be equipped with extra unused face coverings for students who may have inadvertently failed to bring one.
- Maximize physical distancing to the greatest extent possible between student to student and between students and the driver when seated on the bus.
- Siblings or students from the same household will be seated together.
- At least two bus windows will remain open to increase airflow/ventilation as practicable.
- Buses should be thoroughly cleaned daily and after transporting any individual who is exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19. Drivers should be provided cleaning materials, including but not limited to wipes and disposable gloves, to support cleaning of frequently touched surfaces during the day.

Visitors on School Sites or Campuses

School sites and campuses will allow essential visitors on campus. (Examples of essential visitors are parent conferences, attendees for an IEP or 504 meeting.) To the greatest extent possible, schools will limit visitors and activities with people who are not fully vaccinated. While on campus, all visitors will be required to wear masks while indoors. Prior to entering a school campus, visitors will be required self-screen for any COVID-19 symptoms. If a visitor has any of the COVID-19 symptoms or symptoms of infectious illness, they will not enter the campus and will seek testing and care. Outside partners and contractors will be permitted and will be required to follow all GUSD current safety plan guidelines for visitors. Facility use permits will be available upon approval.

Volunteers on School Sites or Campuses

School sites and campuses will allow essential volunteers to be in classrooms and participate in school-related activities. Examples of essential volunteers are executive board members of PTA, ELAC, or School Site Council. Volunteers will be required to wear masks if they are working inside, and they will need to have evidence of vaccination for COVID. Volunteers must show evidence of vaccination of COVID-19 on file within GUSD's Student Information System (SIS) prior to beginning volunteer work. People interested in being a volunteer will need to contact the School Office Manager to learn the steps in becoming a volunteer.

Public Meetings

School sites and campuses will hold public meetings on a limited basis. If feasible, public meetings will be held outdoors. If such meetings are held indoors, all participants will be required to wear a mask and individuals will be seated to maximize physical distance to the greatest extent possible.

Staff Meetings

In-person staff meetings can be held as long as parameters of the COVID Safety Plan are met. If the meetings are held indoors, all staff must wear a mask regardless of COVID-19 vaccination status. Physical distancing between staff members will be maintained to the greatest extent possible.

Field Trips

GUSD values the importance of learning through field trips experiences. Grade level cohorts will be allowed to participate in field trips, and extra measures have been put in place for COVID safety precautions. Prior to going on a field trip, every parent must screen their child for COVID symptoms, and teachers must describe their plan for ensuring compliance with the COVID Safety Plan. Only parents and guardians may be volunteers and all volunteers must have proof of vaccination on file within GUSD's Student Information System (SIS) in order to chaperone on any field trip. There may be instances where transportation may be provided by a vendor due to lengthy distances, and the layers of safety will be implemented to the greatest extent possible.

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 fully implemented. https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/K-12-Guidance-2021-22-School-Year.aspx). Although the most current guidance states that there is no physical distancing requirement in normal circumstances except when masking isn't an option (i.e., when eating), GUSD has committed to providing as much physical distancing as is practical. For further information on social distancing during a modified quarantine or subsequent to an exposure, please refer to the section below entitled **Procedures for Contact Tracing.**

Face Coverings and Other Essential Protective Gear

All students in all grades, staff, and others on campus are required to wear a mask while indoors on a school campus, GUSD site, or on a bus. Additionally, students who arrive early to school must wear masks outdoors. Staff will teach and reinforce the use of face coverings.

The policy provides for the following exceptions to the face coverings requirement:

- Students and staff will be allowed to remove face coverings while eating and drinking. Staff and students may take a mask break when outside, during outdoor learning environments, and during recess.
- Although GUSD does not serve students two years old and younger, it should be noted that students two years and younger should not wear masks.
- Other considerations for students and staff with a medical exemption may be approved to wear an alternative face covering on an individual basis for those with disabilities. Please contact your school nurse if an exemption is required.

The Goleta Union School District posts signage to inform students, employees, and community members that the Goleta Union School District requires the use of face coverings regardless of vaccination status at Goleta Union School District worksites and facilities.

The Goleta Union School District policy adheres to orders and guidance provided by the CDPH and the local health department regarding face coverings, including as provided at the following web address: CDPH Guidance for the Use of Face Coverings

Healthy Hygiene and Hand Washing Practices

Hand washing is an important action to prevent transmission of infectious disease. All students and staff should practice good hygiene by regularly washing their hands with soap for a minimum of 20 seconds. We will post handwashing posters in common areas. Most classrooms have sinks where students can wash hands regularly. Hand washing stations are also available for outdoor learning environments. Teachers will teach and reinforce washing hands, avoiding contact with one's eyes, nose, and mouth, and covering coughs and sneezes among students and staff.

Handwashing will be encouraged at the following times:

- Before and after eating

- After using the toilet
- After handling garbage
- After removing gloves

Goleta Union School District will encourage the following healthy hygiene practices:

- Promote, demonstrate, and monitor regular, thorough hand washing and positive hygiene behaviors.
- Ensure soap and water is available at age-appropriate hand washing facilities.
- Place approved hand sanitizers in outdoor hand sanitizer stations, classrooms, hallways, and near exits where possible.
- Wear face coverings at all times while indoors.
- Clean and sanitize school buildings, classrooms, and especially refillable water stations and restroom facilities daily, particularly surfaces that are touched by many people, such as railings, lunch tables, door and window handles, etc.
- Encourage increased airflow and ventilation by opening windows and doors and the use of fans; and air conditioning (where available). Encourage students and staff to bring sweaters and coats so ventilation is possible on cooler days.
- Promote the use of outdoor learning spaces. In the event of inclement weather or poor air quality, teachers can be required to teach kids within their stable group indoors.
- Ensure trash is removed daily and disposed of safely.
- Prop doors open to reduce the number of people touching handles.
- Staff should model and practice handwashing.
- Students and staff should use fragrance-free hand sanitizer when handwashing is not practicable. Sanitizer must be rubbed into hands until completely dry. Please note that frequent handwashing is more effective than the use of hand sanitizers. Hand sanitizers with at least 60 percent ethyl alcohol are preferred.
- Do not use hand sanitizers that may contain methanol which can be hazardous when ingested or absorbed.
    - Call Poison Control if consumed: 1-800-222-1222.
- Develop routines enabling students and staff to regularly wash their hands at staggered intervals.

Cleaning and Disinfection

- Perform routine environmental cleaning following CDC Guidelines:
- Routinely clean all frequently touched surfaces. Use cleaning agents that are usually applied in these areas and follow the directions on the label. The following touch surfaces should be cleaned: desks; tables; doorknobs; light switches; countertops; handles; phones; keyboards and mouse; toilets; faucets and sinks; bus seats and handrails; touch screens; and play and sports equipment.
- Teachers and staff who voluntarily take an online course are qualified to use proper cleaning supplies. Go to www.getsafetytrained.com.
- When choosing cleaning products, staff will use those approved for use against COVID-19 on the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-approved list “N” and follow product instructions.
- Staff will ensure safe and correct application of disinfectant and keep products away from students. Ensure proper ventilation during cleaning and disinfecting, while maintaining proper ventilation during cleaning and disinfecting.

- Continue routine cleaning and disinfecting. This includes everyday practices normally used to maintain a healthy environment.
- Buses should be thoroughly cleaned daily and after transporting any individual who is exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19.
- When choosing disinfection products after an in-school COVID-19 case has been identified (see "What to do if there is a case of COVID-19 in a School"), use those approved for use against COVID-19 on the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-approved list "N" and follow product instructions.
- Refillable water stations will be available and be cleaned/disinfected daily.

Three Levels of Site Cleaning

1. Daily cleaning
2. Specific location
3. Schoolwide cleaning

Level	Description	Method
Daily or More	Cleaning touch surfaces	Custodial staff will provide regular cleaning. Teachers and staff who voluntarily take an online course are qualified to use proper cleaning supplies. Go to www.getsafetytrained.com. See instructions below.
Specific Location	Cleaning of an area in which a person with symptoms of an infectious disease was present.	Custodial staff will provide this cleaning following CDC Guidance https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/disinfecting-building-facility.html.
Schoolwide	Cleaning an entire school site due to a confirmed person with COVID-19.	A team of custodial staff will be assembled or a contractor hired. Guidance provided by CDC https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/disinfecting-building-facility.html.

Cleaning and Disinfecting If Someone Is Sick

- Close off areas used by the person who is sick. Schools do not necessarily need to close operations, if they can close off affected areas.
- Open doors and windows to increase air circulation in the area.
- Wait 24 hours before staff clean or disinfect.
- Clean and disinfect all areas used by the person who is sick, such as classrooms, offices, bathrooms, common areas, and shared electronic equipment like tablets, touch screens, keyboards, remote controls.
- Vacuum the space if needed. Use a vacuum equipped with a high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filter, if available.
    - Do not vacuum a room or space that has people in it. For common spaces, wait

until the room or space is and will remain empty before vacuuming, such as at night. Private rooms may be vacuumed during the day.
    - Consider temporarily turning off room fans and the central HVAC system that services the room or space, so that particles that escape from vacuuming will not circulate throughout the facility.
- Once the area has been appropriately disinfected, it can be opened for use.
- Workers without close contact with the person who is sick can return to work immediately after disinfecting.
- If more than seven (7) days have elapsed since the sick person visited or used the facility, additional cleaning and disinfecting is not necessary.

Identification of COVID-19 Cases and District Response

Testing of Students and Staff

Testing protocols will be compliant with State and local mandates. The State Public Health Officer Order of August 11, 2021 requires that all unvaccinated staff members participate in COVID-19 surveillance testing weekly. Workers who are not fully vaccinated, or for whom vaccine status is unknown or documentation is not provided, will be considered unvaccinated. Asymptomatic testing will generally be available during regular hours of operation with results generally available within 24 hours. The Santa Barbara Public Health Department protocols for symptoms, close contacts, and positive COVID-19 cases can be found here: Santa Barbara Public Health Department Protocol

GUSD offers free testing to *all* employees who had close contact exposure at work, regardless of their vaccination status, unless the employee recovered from a COVID-19 case within the preceding 90 days. Although Surveillance testing is only required of unvaccinated staff, GUSD has contracted with Aptitude Medical Systems, Inc. to provide routine surveillance, response, and symptomatic testing for all students, employees, and family members.

Two Workplace Infection Control Coordinators (WICCs), both school nurses, have been designated as staff liaisons to be responsible for responding to COVID-19 concerns. All staff have been informed of how to contact the WICC. The liaison is trained to coordinate the documentation and tracking of possible exposures, in order to notify local health officials, staff and families in a prompt and responsible manner. This will support local health department contact tracing efforts.

The Goleta Union School District will investigate and respond to people who have had potential positive results or exposure to COVID-19. If a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19 or are diagnosed with COVID-19 by a healthcare provider, GUSD will instruct the student or staff member to remain at or return to their home or place of residence and not report to attend school until such time as they satisfy the minimum criteria to return to school.

The District will report information about COVID-19 cases to the local health department whenever required by law, and provide any related information requested by the local health

department.

The Local Health Department will guide GUSD whether the District must report any positive cases to the Center for Disease Control. If there is a serious illness or death, the District will report immediately to Cal/OSHA, as defined under CCR Title 8 section 330(h), of an employee occurring in the place of employment or in connection with any employment. GUSD will maintain records of the steps taken to implement our written COVID-19 Prevention Program in accordance with CCR Title 8 section 3203(b).

Procedures for Contact Tracing

The Goleta Union School District will investigate and respond to individuals who had positive test results or potential exposure to COVID-19. If a student or staff member tests positive for COVID- 19 or are diagnosed with COVID-19 by a healthcare provider, GUSD will instruct the student or staff member to remain at or return to their home or place of residence and not report to attend school until such time as they satisfy the minimum criteria to return to school.

Asymptomatic individuals, who are exposed to COVID-19 but who are fully vaccinated, are not required to be tested or quarantined prior to returning to school. They are, however, required to continue to monitor themselves for symptoms for fourteen days after exposure. People are considered fully vaccinated two weeks after their final dose of an approved COVID-19 vaccine.

Symptomatic individuals, who are exposed to COVID-19 but who are fully vaccinated, are required to isolate immediately and encouraged to contact their healthcare provider. Such individuals may, upon confirmation of a negative test result, return to work/school.

The following restrictions are all recommended as part of an at-home quarantine:

- Stay at home except to seek medical care.
- Do not go to work, school or public areas.
- Do not use public transportation.
- Separate yourself from others in your home.
- Do not allow visitors.
- Do not prepare or serve food to others.
- Limit contact with pets.

According to most recent guidance, when a masked, unvaccinated individual is exposed (more than 15 minutes over a 24-hour period within 0-6 feet) to a masked infected person in an indoor classroom setting, that individual may undergo a modified 10-day quarantine and continue to attend school so long as the individual:

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

Unvaccinated individuals exposed to COVID (more than 15 minutes over a 24-hour period within 0-6 feet) outside of the school setting must quarantine at home for a minimum of 7 days

regardless of masking.

- They may return to school on Day 8 if they remain asymptomatic and they test negative after day 5.
- The only time a student can attend school with a modified quarantine is when the exposure occurred at school.

Quarantine recommendations for unvaccinated close contacts who were not wearing masks during an indoor school exposure is still 14 days. However, those unvaccinated contacts that remain asymptomatic may discontinue self-quarantine under the following conditions:

- quarantine can end after 10 days from the last exposure without testing; OR
- quarantine can end after seven days if a negative test is received after day five from the date of the exposure.

When testing an exposed student or worker to access any of the flexibilities listed above, only a COVID test performed at the school site under observation of assigned school staff or at an authorized testing site can be accepted. A parent cannot buy a test kit at a pharmacy or online, use that test kit, and report a negative result.

Using a certified contractor (e.g., Aptitude Aptitude Medical Systems, Inc.), GUSD will be responsible for testing and HR for monitoring:

- unvaccinated employees once per week;
- employees who have had an exposure;
- students who have had an exposure (at request of parent/guardian who would be present to do the sample collection); and
- possible symptomatic staff (and students at parent/guardian request and present to collect the sample).

If a student is required to quarantine or self-isolate, the student will be offered an instructional packet or online assignments to enable ongoing learning. If an employee is required to quarantine or self-isolate, the employee will be informed of available leave options.

Students and staff who present symptoms when at a school/work site will be directed to options available for free COVID-19 testing, however, school staff (e.g., School Nurses) and/or an certified GUSD contractor (e.g., Aptitude Medical Systems, Inc.) may supervise the self-collection (or parent collection for students) of a testing sample for such staff or for such students at parent/guardian request. Students and staff who report symptoms before coming to a school/work site or after having returned home will be directed to options available for free COVID-19 testing. Anyone who has any of the characteristic symptoms listed above will not be allowed to enter any GUSD site. Testing locations, in addition to those provided through a GUSD-certified contractor (e.g., Aptitude Medical Systems, Inc.), may be found on the Santa Barbara County Public Health Department website.

CLOSE CONTACT – EXCLUSION FROM WORK

Both vaccinated and unvaccinated employees who have had close contact may remain at the workplace if the employer provides the employees with information about applicable precautions recommended by CDPH for persons with close contacts (AB685 notice) *AND* if the employees:

- Test negative on days 3-5 from the date of close contact; *AND*

- Are asymptomatic; *AND*
- Wear a face covering for 14 days following the last date of close contact; *AND*
- maintain six feet of physical distance from others at the workplace for 14 days following the last date of close contact.
- Vaccinated and unvaccinated employees who have recovered from a case of COVID-19 in the past 90-days and have had close contact may remain at work following all of the same criteria above EXCEPT that they are not required to test for 90 days from the date of illness onset or positive test (if they were asymptomatic).

CLOSE CONTACT – RETURN TO WORK
All employees who are excluded from work due to close contact with a COVID-19 case may return to work:

- After 10 days since date of close contact if:
  - they <u>never</u> developed any COVID-19 symptoms, *AND*
  - the person wears a face covering for 14 days following the last date of close contact, *AND*
  - maintains six feet of distance from others while at the workplace for 14 days following the last date of close contact; ***OR***

- After 7 days since the last known close contact if:
  - they <u>never</u> developed any COVID-19 symptoms, *AND*
  - the person tested negative for COVID-19 using a polymerase change reactions (PCR) COVID-19 test with the specimen <u>taken day 5 or later</u> after the last known close contact; *AND*
  - the person wears a face covering for 14 days following the last date of close contact; *AND*
  - maintains six feet of distance from others while at the workplace for 14 days following the last date of close contact.

- Employees who had a close contact and developed <u>any</u> COVID-19 symptom <u>cannot</u> return to work until:
  - At least 24 hours have passed since a fever of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher has resolved without the use of fever-reducing medications; *AND*
  - COVID-19 symptoms have improved; *AND*
  - At least 10 days have passed since COVID-19 symptoms first appeared.

Communication Plan Regarding Confirmed or Suspected COVID-19 Cases

Our goal is to ensure that we have effective two-way communication in a form that is readily understandable.

Goleta Union School District policy requires employees to immediately report to their manager or supervisor or to the Department of Human Resources any of the following:

(1) An employee's presentation of COVID-19 symptoms;
(2) An employee's possible COVID-19 close contact exposures;
(3) Possible COVID-19 hazards at Goleta Union School District worksites or facilities.

If a student or staff member has any potential exposure to COVID-19 and is believed to have close contact with a person that tested positive, the District will notify parents of such exposure. The notification will occur within one (1) business day from when the District was notified, in a way that does not reveal any personal identifying information of the COVID-19 case.

Notification will occur via Parent Square communication, telephone, email, and/or US mail.

A student or staff member who tested positive for COVID-19 or experienced COVID-19 symptoms will not return to school until all the following have occurred:

- At least 24 hours have passed since a fever of 100.4 or higher has resolved without the use of fever-reducing medications.
- COVID-19 symptoms have improved.
- At least 10 days have passed since COVID-19 symptoms first appeared.
- COVID-19 cases who tested positive but never developed COVID-19 symptoms will not return to work until a minimum of 10 days have passed since the date of specimen collection of their first positive COVID-19 test.
- A negative COVID-19 test will not be required for students to return to school
- If an order to isolate or quarantine is issued by a local or state health official, a person will not return until the period of isolation or quarantine is completed or the order is lifted. If no period was specified, then the period will be 10 days from the time the order to isolate was effective, or 14 days from the time the order to quarantine was effective.