



# Kids Connection Elementary

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## 2022-23 COVID-19 Safety Plan

**KIDS CONNECTION**  
❖ BE EXTRAORDINARY ❖



## Pandemic Recovery Framework for Schools

The COVID-19 Safe Schools Framework replaces the Pandemic Recovery Framework, which guided the safe reopening and operations of schools during the COVID-19 pandemic. This was developed in consultation with San Mateo County Health and reflects California Department of Public Health (CDPH) guidance and reflects California Department of Public Health's (CDPH) and other relevant guidance for schools. f

The Kids Connection plan outlined below is based on this framework, and has been adjusted based on the specific needs of our school community.. Kids Connection (KC) remains steadfast in our commitment to the safety and security of our students, staff and families while also ensuring that each of our students' development and academic progress continues. The document below outlines the procedures that the school has in place to be compliant with any and all local and state regulations.

## 2022-23 Planning Process

**According to CDPH, COVID-19 is here to stay, and schools can manage the disease in sustainable and adaptive manners. Their goal of the 2022-23 school year is to keep schools open and safe for in-person learning. Kids Connection leadership (which includes the management team in consultation with teachers, pediatricians, cleaning experts, legal authorities, the California and San Mateo County Health Departments, Department of Social Services, and the San Mateo County Office of Education) have put together this plan with the focus that many of the strategies used to address COVID-19 can protect school communities from other diseases and support healthy learning environments. For example, they can safeguard students and staff from other airborne pathogens, allergens, and pollutants (e.g., wildfire smoke).**

## On-Campus COVID-19 Protocols

***At all times, it is expected that no person will enter the KC campus presenting symptoms associated with COVID-19. This will take a community effort which will be supported by screenings, vigilance, and on-going education for families, staff, and students. Any suspected or confirmed case must be shared with KC management and will be handled as a top priority. Anyone with direct knowledge must adhere to all applicable privacy laws and policies.***

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## Working together as a Community

Kids Connection has been, and will remain, committed to doing our best to prevent COVID-19, and any communicable disease, from coming to campus and from preventing spread of the virus within the school to the greatest extent possible. However, the reality of any communicable illness is that a community commitment to safety is going to be our most important tool in fighting this illness, and any others. As a school, we can not enforce compliance with the rules and recommendations from the health department when we are not on campus. However, we will continue to provide health and other information to our families and staff. Additionally, we do reserve the right to ask families to quarantine and/or to get a testing or a doctor's note before returning to campus if a risk is identified. Most importantly, we ask all of the members of our community to remember that what happens outside of school absolutely can and will impact our ability to be successful in keeping COVID-19 away. Additionally, every family has risk profiles, preferences and opinions. We respect, and expect all members of our community to respect, the privacy and decisions of each individual family.

## Vaccination

Kid's Connection's policy is to follow the state and local guidance on vaccines in schools. Vaccinations provide individual-level protection and reduce the burden of disease in schools and communities.

CDPH **recommends** that all eligible individuals get vaccinated against COVID-19 and remain up-to-date with recommended boosters.

SMCH provides vaccination information on its website.

### Vaccination Verification

Verification of vaccination status can inform important school practices around testing, contact tracing, quarantine, and isolation. The state public health order requiring vaccine verification of school staff is still in effect for the 2022-23 school year.

KC will verify the vaccination status of all workers, as this is required by law as of the date of this document. "Workers" refers to all paid and unpaid adults serving in the school. They include, but are not limited to, staff and volunteers who are on-site at a school campus supporting school functions. See the [COVID-19 Safe Schools Framework](#) for more information on acceptable forms of proof of vaccination.

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Workers who are not fully vaccinated, or for whom vaccination status is unknown or documentation is not provided, will be considered unvaccinated.

A worker who cannot get vaccinated due to a disability (covered by the Americans With Disabilities Act), has a disability that affects their ability to have a full immune response to vaccination, or has a sincerely held religious belief or practice (covered by Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964) may be entitled to a reasonable accommodation that does not pose an undue hardship on the operations of the school.

Asymptomatic unvaccinated or incompletely vaccinated workers are required to undergo diagnostic screening testing. See the Testing section for more information.

## Air Quality

The risk of getting COVID-19 is much greater in indoor settings with poor ventilation and air filtration. KC will utilize our outdoor spaces whenever possible for activities and instructions. However, outdoor instruction is often not feasible, or safe due to outside contaminants (e.g. wildfire smoke). KC has made the following updates to our building in recent years.

- Since the beginning of the pandemic Kids Connection made significant investments in upgraded filtration on our HVAC systems. Our HVAC systems meet and in many cases far exceed the requirements and recommendations for schools.
- Air purifiers are available for use in classrooms for illness prevention as well as smoke concerns in the area.
- KC has an air quality monitor on the building so we are able to track real time outside air quality. This is in response to the smoke related issues that have arisen in the last few years. KC will thus be able to address concerns real time to ensure the safety of our students, staff, and families.

## Masks

Masks, particularly high-quality and well-fitting masks, remain highly effective, inexpensive, and dynamic tools to protect oneself and mitigate transition of COVID-19 and other respiratory pathogens.

KC's policy will be to follow the CDPH, SMCH and SMCOE requirements regarding masks at school. As of the date of this document, it is strongly recommended, but not required, that individuals wear a high-quality mask indoors. Exceptions include children under two years of age and those with other medical considerations as defined by CDPH. KC reserves the right to



ask students, staff, or anyone else on campus, to wear a mask at the discretion of the school as circumstances change.

## Requirements for Masks

CDPH requires that 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). KC will provide masks for students who inadvertently fail to bring a face covering to school and desire to use one. KC will also provide masks to staff during outbreaks and major outbreaks and when required by CDPH and Cal/OSHA after a workplace exposure.

## Types of Masks

CDPH provides the following recommendations on the types of masks to wear and how to wear them.

- An effective mask has both **good fit** and **good filtration**.
- Double masking is an effective way to improve fit and filtration. A close-fitting mask can be worn on top of a surgical/disposable mask to improve the seal of the mask to the face.
- Layering more than two masks is not recommended as this could be difficult to breathe through.
- It is not recommended to wear two medical masks, or to wear a medical mask on top of a KN95, KF95, or N95.
- More information can be found here, including masks for students.  
(<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Get-the-Most-out-of-Masking.aspx>)

Kids Connection is committed to the values of respect and inclusivity. Therefore, employees, students and other visitors to campus are explicitly allowed to wear a mask at any time, even if not required, without fear of retaliation. We expect all members of the KC staff and parents to respect each other's choice to wear/not wear a mask. This could be due to vaccination status, underlying medical condition, or just the personal decision to be cautious. We ask everyone to not pass judgment, assume or ask one's reason for wearing a mask, or in any way pressure individuals to remove their mask if they choose to wear it.

## Physical Distancing

The CDPH recommends focusing on other mitigation strategies instead of implementing minimum physical distancing requirements for routine classroom instruction. KC will implement

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distancing strategies where possible without inhibiting the students' instructions, and in compliance with Cal/OSHA requirements for staff.

## Testing

Testing remains a key mitigation layer to detect and curb transmission of COVID-19. KC will consistently monitor guidance by the local health authorities and adjust the testing strategy in accordance with their recommendations.

Due to the increased travel and social interactions that often occur during school breaks, KC may require that students and staff get tested for COVID-19 prior to returning to school following major breaks (e.g. summer, winter, spring, etc.). Families should plan for testing at these times, and the decision will be based on the community statistics and health department recommendations at the time. Information will be provided closer to those times.

### Move to Antigen Testing

According to CDPH, antigen tests should be considered the primary option for detecting COVID-19 in schools, instead of PCR tests. Antigen tests that provide rapid results are much better to guide immediate isolation to prevent transmission. A PCR test, on the other hand, picks up very low levels of virus, both before and after an infection (sometimes for months), leading to students and staff unnecessarily missing school despite feeling well and not being a risk to others.

- Both the professional, on-site antigen tests as well as the over-the-counter (OTC) at-home antigen tests have been effective in identifying persons who have infection levels of all known COVID variants.
- Lab-based molecular (PCR/LAMP) are reserved for confirmatory testing.
- According to the CDPH, OTC/at-home test kits can be used beyond their expiration date as long as the internal control like after test development is both easily visible and the color specified by the specific test instructions.
- Notification of all positive results should be provided to the school as fast as possible to allow for contact tracing and health department notification.

### Testing of Unvaccinated School Workers

According to the August 11, 2021, public health order, symptomatic workers (paid or volunteer) in schools who are not fully vaccinated are required to undergo diagnostic screening testing.

- Workers may be tested with either antigen or molecular tests to satisfy this requirement.
- Workers who are not fully vaccinated must be tested at least once weekly.

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- Workers who are not fully vaccinated must also observe all other infection control requirements and are not exempt from testing even if they have a medical contraindication to vaccination, since they are still potentially able to spread the disease.
- Previous history of COVID-19 from which the individual has recovered more than 90 days earlier, or a previous antibody test for COVID-19, does not waive this requirement for testing.
- According to CDPH, OTC/at-home tests may be used for testing unvaccinated staff. When submitting this result, the date must be marked on the photo. This can be by writing the date on the test card or otherwise showing the date in the photo (such as including the home screen on the phone next to the card).

## Hand Hygiene

Kids Connection will include robust curriculum, signage, and reminders of appropriate hand hygiene. This includes:

- Teaching and reinforcing washing hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, avoiding contact with one's eyes, nose, and mouth, and covering coughs and sneezes.
- KC will promote handwashing throughout the day, especially before or after eating, after using the toilet, and after handling garbage, removing gloves, or transitioning between areas of the school.
- Kids Connection will constantly review the emerging guidance about what supplies we must and should have on hand to support healthy hygiene behaviors, including soap, tissues, no touch trash cans, masks, and hand sanitizer.
- Hand sanitizer will be placed in every classroom and at high traffic areas of the school. Supervision and teaching of the appropriate way to use hand sanitizer will be incorporated into the curriculum.

## Cleaning

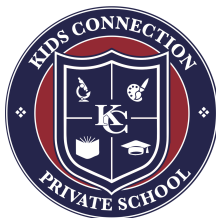
Cleaning protocols will be done to ensure compliance with, and in many cases to exceed, all recommended and required guidance of the relevant health authorities. In the event of a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19, additional disinfection procedures will be put in place immediately.

Kids Connection has an electrostatic disinfecting spray cleaning service performed regularly throughout the school year. Extra services would be implemented in the event of a case or close contact. This regular protocol includes the following:

- **SURFACE DISINFECTION** - A hospital grade broad spectrum disinfection solution is applied to all of our surfaces with an electrostatic spray system for the most thorough coverage. The system is laboratory tested effective at killing the most difficult bacteria, virus, and other known strains of the Coronavirus when properly applied. Additionally,

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the solution will also penetrate and destroy biofilm that bacteria and mold form as a defense mechanism. The process is highly effective on porous and non-porous materials.

- PROTECTIVE SURFACE SHIELD - Long lasting Antimicrobial Shield Gives Continuous Protection 24/7. After sanitization, the Antimicrobial Protective Shield is applied to EVERY surface. This long lasting antimicrobial shield is applied with an electrostatic spray system which gives the treated surface the ability to continuously kill germs as they are deposited onto a surface. The antimicrobial shield is also applied to, and effective on carpet, upholstery, office partitions, paper, and any other surfaces. When any other brand disinfectant is applied and then dry, they immediately stop disinfecting. The Protective Surface Shield continues to work for you after dry for 3 Months.
- AIR PURIFICATION - To continuously clean the air, we have installed Air Fresh Packs in most rooms of the schools. These packets use the moisture in the air to release a slight amount of disinfectant into the air to help keep the air germ and allergen free, 24/7.
- SAFETY - The sanitizing solutions we apply are completely safe for people, pets, food, and the environment. They do not poison molecules but physically kill them by oxidation. Our solution is registered by the FDA to be used on meat and produce as a rinse before packaging. It is also found in some mouthwash and toothpastes for safe disinfection. Some grocery stores use this solution in the automatic water misting system over the produce section to kill bacteria and fungus which will extend the shelf life of the produce. Our disinfectant is so safe, you could wash your face and hands with it.

## Stay Home When Sick and Get Tested

The CDPH notes that getting tested for COVID-19 when symptoms are consistent with COVID-19 will help with rapid contact tracing and prevent possible spread at school. At Kids Connection:

- Students, Teachers, and staff who have symptoms of infectious illness, such as influenza (flu) or COVID-19, should stay home and contact their healthcare provider for testing and care.
- Staff members and students with symptoms of COVID-19 infection should stay home until they have met these criteria.
  - 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 COVID-19 test, **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.,



**FEELING SICK?**  
**PLEASE STAY HOME**

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Streptococcal pharyngitis, Coxsackie virus), **OR** at least 10 days have passed since the last onset.

- If the symptoms of COVID-19 are present and the initial test is negative, it is recommended that a second test be taken 3-5 days later.

### Common Symptoms of COVID-19 (CDPH)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Headache</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● New loss of taste or smell</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Fever or chills</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Sore throat</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Cough</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Congestion or runny nose</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Nausea or vomiting</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Muscle or body aches</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Diarrhea</li></ul>

### When Students or Staff are Sick at School

When a student or staff member is sick while on campus, they will be required to return home as soon as possible. For staff, a substitute will be placed in the class so the staff member can leave campus immediately. For students, they will be placed in our sick area and must be picked up by a parent or guardian immediately. The student or staff member should seek a COVID-19 test from their healthcare provider or community testing site as soon as possible.

If the person tests positive for COVID-19, they should be directed to contact their healthcare provider for follow-up response and monitoring.

If the person tests negative for COVID-19, they may return to school following the health policies noted above.



## When Students and Staff are Diagnosed with COVID-19

Everyone who is infected with COVID-19, regardless of vaccination status, previous infection, or lack of symptoms, should follow the recommendations listed in the [CDPH Guidance Isolation and Quarantine for the general public](#). Please contact the school in order to get updated quarantine and return to school guidelines. Be prepared to share the date symptoms started, basic description of the symptoms (i.e. fever, headache, cough, etc) the date of the positive test. Generally a positive test will result in the following requirements.

## When Students and Staff are Exposed to COVID-19

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

KC follows the recommended steps outlined by the CDPH, which are as follows.

- Families notify the school if their child has COVID-19 and was on school grounds during their infectious period.
- KC will perform contact tracing and notify students who spent more than a cumulative total of 15 minutes (within a 24-hour time period) in a shared indoor airspace (e.g., classroom) with someone with COVID-19 during their infectious period.
- KC will then provide a general notification to the entire school community during times of elevated transmission of COVID-19.
- All students and staff with known exposure to persons with COVID-19 should follow the CDPH recommendations. Contact the front desk to get updated guidance at the time of exposure. The following is a link to the framework for additional information.  
[https://www.smcoe.org/assets/files/For%20Communities\\_FIL/COVID-19%20Resources\\_FIL/Covid-19%20Safe%20Schools%20Framework.pdf](https://www.smcoe.org/assets/files/For%20Communities_FIL/COVID-19%20Resources_FIL/Covid-19%20Safe%20Schools%20Framework.pdf)
- Exposed students and staff may continue to take part in all aspects of school, including sports and extracurricular activities, unless they develop symptoms or test positive for COVID-19. They should test, report positive test results to the school, and follow other components of this guidance.
- If a student or staff member is showing signs and symptoms of COVID-19 they should stay home and get tested. If negative, retest between days 3-5.



## Infectious period

- For symptomatic infected persons, the infectious period is 2 days before the infected person had any symptoms through Day 10 after symptoms first appeared (or through Days 5-10 if test is negative on Day 5 or later), and 24 hours have passed with no fever, without the use of fever-reducing medications, and symptoms have improved, OR
- For asymptomatic infected persons, the infectious period is 2 days before the positive specimen collection date through Day 10 after positive specimen collection date (or through Days 5-10 if testing negative on Day 5 or later) after specimen collection date for their first positive COVID-19 test.
- For the purposes of identifying close contacts and exposures, infected persons who test negative on or after DAY 5 can end isolation and, in accordance with the guidance, are no longer considered to be within their infectious period. Sick persons should continue to follow CDPH isolation recommendations, including wearing a well-fitting face mask through Day 10. There is no need to test after Day 10 if symptoms have resolved.

### Definitions

**Fully vaccinated:** two weeks have passed since the individual received their final dose of COVID-19 vaccine.

**Close Contact:** Someone sharing the same indoor airspace for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period during an infected person's infectious period.

**High-Risk Contact:** Someone who may experience severe illness if they become infected with COVID-19 or for whom the transmission potential is high.

## Gatherings

Gatherings are defined as large events, such as large assemblies, or school-based crowded events. Regular school day activities are not considered "gatherings" with regards to CDPH guidance. KC will evaluate the need for mitigation strategies for events based on current CDPH guidance.

Kids Connection does ask all attendees to closely monitor for symptoms in advance and to stay home if they, or others in their household, are ill or have been exposed to COVID-19.



## Training

Kids Connection will provide effective and regular training to staff, students, and parents on how COVID-19 is spread, infection prevention techniques, and other information related to COVID-19. Such topics will be included in classroom curriculum, in staff meetings and training, and in regular correspondence with parents.

## Plans

Kids Connection will regularly evaluate the COVID-19 and other safety protocols on a regular basis. Although no longer required, a copy of the most recent plan will be posted on the school website and significant updates will be communicated with parents and staff.

## Visitors

According to CDPH, volunteers who are onsite at a school campus supporting school functions are considered “workers” and, therefore, schools must verify their vaccination status. Those who are not fully vaccinated must participate in the school's testing program. See above for more information on what that requires.

## Case Reporting

Kids Connection is required to report all cases of communicable diseases, including COVID-19, to the local health agency, and is required to notify students and staff who may have been exposed to COVID-19. Therefore it is critical that KC be notified about any positive cases that impact the school. School staff will take every precaution to protect the privacy of infected persons. Please notify the front desk of your child’s program (preschool or elementary) of any positive case. Please be prepared to answer basic questions regarding your situation so that appropriate reporting and notifications can be conducted.

## Outbreaks/Distance Learning

Broad disruption to in-person learning, such as temporary school or classroom closures, due to COVID-19 should remain a last resort and will be considered after all available resources have been exhausted, and will only occur after conferring with the local health officials.

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## Virtual Kids Connection (VKC)

VKC is Kids Connection's approach to distance learning, and is primarily synchronous utilizing Schoology and live instruction (utilizing Zoom or Google Meets). VKC will not be available for individual students. The only environment in which it will be made available will be if an entire class is required by health department guidance to transition to distance learning for a period of more than 1 full school week.

If a student needs to miss school for illness, vacation, or for other reasons, the teacher will provide asynchronous work that should be done independently before returning to school. The method that each teacher will utilize to communicate these plans will be discussed at Back to School Night. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the front desk or your child's teacher..

## Schoology

For the 2022-23 school year, all students will be given access to a schoology account. This will be used in the event that a transfer back to distance learning is required. Each class will utilize Schoology differently, and further information will be provided during Back to School Night.

Schoology information will be provided in the week prior to the start of the school year. Each family is asked to check the log in to make sure it works. If you have concerns or issues, please contact Joanne Jennings at [jjennings@kc4us.com](mailto:jjennings@kc4us.com).