



WINGS LEARNING CENTER COVID-19 Protections and Policies Updated Guidance for Fall 2021

WINGS remains deeply committed to the safety of our students, families, and staff and gratefully acknowledges your commitment to our program during these challenging times.

Here you will find the current guidelines provided by the San Mateo County Coalition for Safe Schools and Communities with guidance from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) as it relates to WINGS and the students we serve. Updated guidance will be provided as it becomes available. As information changes quickly in regards to this important issue, we appreciate your patience with the unknowns.

WINGS is fully invested in the creation of safe and effective in-person education for our important students.

Please contact Executive Director Alicia Jennings M.A. with any questions:
jennings@wingslearningcenter.org 650.365.3250 ext 14

COVID-19 Vaccination Verification

Verification of vaccination status informs important school practices around testing, contact tracing, quarantine, and isolation; therefore, it is imperative that we receive this information in a timely manner. If you have questions regarding submitting your vaccination status, please reach out to your WINGS team.

- WINGS currently requires vaccination status information from staff and actively requests status from students. Vaccination status is documented with proof of vaccination from a verified vaccination provider. Staff who cannot provide vaccination verification are required to test twice weekly for COVID-19.
- WINGS procedures to collect, secure, use, and further disclose this information complies with relevant statutory and regulatory requirements, including Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).
- If staff or students are unable or unwilling to share their vaccination status, they will be treated as not vaccinated for all policies regarding testing and contact tracing.

Masking Requirements

On August 2, 2021, the San Mateo County Health Officer issued an order requiring masks to be worn regardless of vaccination status in all indoor public settings, venues, gatherings, and workplaces, including schools. Universal masking inside schools addresses concerns about variants and provides extra protection for students who are not vaccinated. It also makes it possible for CDPH to lift physical distancing requirements, which had been a key barrier to all students returning to in-person learning on a full-time basis last year.

- All WINGS students and staff are required to mask indoors except those who are qualified exempt based on CDPH face mask guidance. Masks are optional outdoors unless there is a substantial risk to transmission due to crowded space or other factors.

- Exemptions:

As per CDPH Guidance on Face Coverings, "persons with a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability that prevents wearing a mask" as well as "persons who are hearing impaired" are exempt from mask requirements.

Assessing for exemption due to a medical condition, mental health condition, disability that prevents wearing a mask, or hearing impairment is a medical determination and therefore **must be made by a physician, nurse practitioner, or other licensed medical professional practicing under the license of a physician.** Self-attestation and parental attestation for mask exemptions due to the aforementioned conditions do not constitute medical determinations.

Additionally, per CDPH K-12 Guidance updated August 2nd, "persons exempted from wearing a face covering 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."

CDPH will continue to assess conditions on an ongoing basis, and will determine no later than November 1, 2021, whether to update mask requirements or recommendations. Indicators, conditions, and science review will include vaccination coverage status, in consideration of whether vaccines are available for children under 12, community case and hospitalization rates, outbreaks, and ongoing vaccine effectiveness against circulating variants of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, in alignment with the CDC-recommended indicators to guide K-12 school operations.

If you have questions or concerns regarding WINGS mask policies and/or your ability to qualify for an exemption, WINGS will continue to work with your family to find a solution that best suits your students' needs.

Physical Distancing

Per updated guidance from CDPH which states "Recent evidence indicates that in-person instruction can occur safely without minimum physical distancing requirements when other mitigation strategies (e.g., masking) are implemented." Therefore, no specific guidance has been provided in regards to physical distancing. However, WINGS remains committed to safe pandemic practices and will continue to limit gatherings indoors, avoid eating and drinking in large groups or in close proximity to others and avoid unnecessary contact with other classrooms or departments.

Ventilation

WINGS recently updated the building ventilation system by adding additional windows, fans, and air filtration systems. WINGS continues to monitor the indoor air quality in our shared spaces and provide access to good ventilation throughout the building. If air quality is poor outdoors, all necessary steps will be taken to continue to provide a safe learning environment with ventilation indoors. If that is not possible, WINGS may consider student dismissal and/or distance learning until air quality improves and proper ventilation in classrooms and common areas can resume. For resources and guidance on air quality, visit the San Mateo County Office of Education's Air Quality Resources webpage.

Travel

Please see included California Department of Public Health Travel Guidelines

Modified Quarantine

CDPH has updated its quarantine guidance for schools that limits the use of quarantine for students. WINGS is committed to following a modified quarantine when needed. CDPH defines Modified Quarantine as follows: "Guidance suggests that through scientific research and experience from around the country it has been demonstrated that when both parties are wearing facemasks appropriately at the time of a school-based exposure to COVID-19, in-school transmission is unlikely and students can safely continue in-person learning. When students remain in school after exposure because the student and the individual with COVID-19 were wearing masks appropriately, this is called modified quarantine. Modified quarantine involves a period of time during which students may continue in-person instruction but should refrain from all extracurricular activities at school, including sports, and activities within the community setting. Testing during modified quarantine provides an additional layer of safety and monitoring. Modified quarantine allows for less missed days of school and supports in-person education."

- Who qualifies for modified quarantine?

Asymptomatic unvaccinated students exposed to COVID-19 may qualify for a modified quarantine as determined by WINGS staff following the CDPH guidance. WINGS will require twice-weekly testing for any students on modified quarantine and continues to encourage all unvaccinated persons with a known exposure to COVID-19 to remain at home until a negative Covid test can be confirmed. Asymptomatic unvaccinated staff exposed to COVID-19 continue to be required to quarantine at home.

Note: Fully vaccinated students and staff exposed to COVID-19 may refrain from quarantine following a known exposure if asymptomatic. All persons with symptoms vaccinated or not are required to test and quarantine for at least 72 hours.