

COVID-19 Safety Plan for SMCOE School Programs

Outdoor Education 2021-2022



The following plan is based upon the guidance of the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) as presented in the **Pandemic Recovery Framework**

The San Mateo County Office of Education (SMCOE) prioritizes the safety of its students and staff. This plan lays out SMCOE's COVID-19 safety plan for the 2021-22 school year. This plan reflects CDPH, CDC, and Cal/OSHA guidance. Given the continuing evolving situation with COVID-19, we can expect public health guidance will be updated throughout the school year. The San Mateo County Outdoor Education program will update its practices to align with this guidance while protecting the health and safety of our students and staff.

Vaccination

Vaccination is an important strategy to protect students, staff, and community members. Verification of vaccination status is an important tool for use in determining the need for testing, contact tracing, quarantine, and isolation.

Per CDPH guidance, the San Mateo County Outdoor Education program will require documentation of the vaccination status of all staff and adults participating in Outdoor Education. The vaccination status of adults will be documented using one of the following CDPH-approved methods:

- COVID-19 Vaccination Record Card (issued by the Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Disease Control & Prevention or WHO Yellow Card), which includes name of person vaccinated, type of vaccine provided, and date last dose administered); **or**
- A photo of a Vaccination Record Card as a separate document; **or**
- A photo of the client's Vaccination Record Card stored on a phone or electronic device; **or**
- Documentation of COVID-19 vaccination from a health care provider; **or**
- A digital record that includes a QR code that when scanned by a SMART Health Card reader displays to the reader client name, date of birth, vaccine dates, and vaccine type; **or**
- Documentation of vaccination from other contracted employers who follow these vaccination records guidelines and standards.

The San Mateo County Outdoor Education program will require the COVID-19 vaccination status of all eligible students participating in Outdoor Education. Parents and guardians will be asked if their student has been vaccinated and if the student has previously tested positive for COVID-19. If the student has been vaccinated,

parents and guardians must provide the date that the vaccination series was completed. This information is critical for accurate contact tracing purposes.

Masks

The following summarizes SMCOE's masking policies for its Outdoor Education program:

- All students and adults are required to mask indoors except those who are exempt based on [CDPH face mask guidance](#).
- The Outdoor Education program will provide a mask to students who fail to bring one.
- SMCOE will work with students who are not exempt from masking requirements to help them meet the requirement.
- At this time masks will be required inside and outside at camp with some exceptions. SMCOE will continue to monitor transmission in the school and community and adjust this policy accordingly.
- Masking is not required during meals while eating or while students are sleeping.
- All passengers and drivers must wear a mask on school buses and other forms of student transportation except when exempt from [CDPH face mask guidance](#).
- The school district will provide masks to those students on school buses who may need them.

Physical Distancing, Cohorting, and Gathering

SMCOE staff will require a cabin “cohort” as an additional safety layer. These cohorts are referred to as *cabin groups*. Students will be placed in cabin groups of approximately 16 students, 1 SMCOE teaching staff, and 1-2 high school cabin leaders. The cabin group will do all activities together during the week and maintain physical distance from other cabin groups.

The Outdoor Education program will maximize physical distancing as much as possible when students and staff are eating indoors. In addition, they will arrange for students and staff to eat outdoors as much as feasible.

Large gatherings of students will be limited to essential activities such as fire drills. Meals will take place outdoors unless weather requires that the dining hall be used. Masking will be required during outdoor evening activities including the night hike. During these activities, cabin groups will be distanced from one another. Decisions about activities such as singing will be made based on the amount of community spread and will take place only when students are masked.

Ventilation

- Windows and doors will be open as weather allows.
- Each cabin is equipped with a portable air cleaning unit.
- SMCOE's Outdoor Education Program Administrators will monitor [air quality](#).
- If air quality is poor, SMCOE may consider dismissing students to go home.

Non-Attendance Guidelines for Students and Staff

As outlined in the [CDPH Self-Isolation Instructions](#), staff or campers who are ill and/or have a positive COVID-19 test *must not attend camp until*:

- A minimum of 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared,
- Symptoms have improved, and
- They have been fever-free for the last 24 hours (without using medicine that reduces fevers) **OR**:
- If asymptomatic: 10 days have passed since the specimen collection date.

Outdoor Education Staff should contact the Outdoor Education Principal, Senior Naturalist, or Director if they are experiencing any common symptoms of COVID-19 or are not feeling well.

Parents and guardians should contact the school if their student is not feeling well prior to the student attending Outdoor Education.

Common Symptoms of COVID-19 (CDPH)

- Headache
- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue (tiredness)
- Muscle or body aches
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

When a Student is Sick at Outdoor Education

When a student is sick while at Outdoor Education, Outdoor Education staff must escort the person to the program's isolation room. Once it has been determined by the onsite medic that a student is ill, the student's parent or guardian will be contacted to arrange to pick up the student.

Illness will be assessed according to our usual illness guidelines: this includes taking their temperature, having student lie down, entering data into the health log, checking the health form, administering medication per health form, continuing to monitor student's condition and notifying parent as necessary. Outdoor Education considers a fever to be a temperature of 100.4° F or greater. In addition, any student who displays symptoms of COVID-19 that are not part of that student's already identified chronic health condition or easily resolved by rest and rehydration (e.g. after a long hike, or day at the beach) will be subject to a COVID-19 test and returning home.

Hand Hygiene

Promoting and making time for hand washing is a CDPH recommended safety layer. Staff will provide students with training on proper handwashing technique.

- Students will wash hands and use hand sanitizer throughout the day.
- Hand sanitizer is widely available throughout the camp.

- SMCOE and YMCA Camp Jones Gulch will also ensure adequate supplies to support healthy hygiene behaviors, including soap, tissues, no-touch trash cans, masks, and hand sanitizers.

Cleaning and Disinfection

- SMCOE and Camp Jones Gulch have regular cleaning and disinfection protocols. In accordance with the YMCA's COVID-19 plan of operation, YMCA Camp Jones Gulch staff will continue usual daily cleaning and disinfection of the camp property.
- Bathrooms will be cleaned and disinfected twice a day.
- If a person sick with COVID-19 has been on site within the last 24 hours, cleaning AND disinfecting will take place in the spaces occupied by that person.

Food and Meals

- SMCOE will maximize physical distance as much as possible when students and staff are eating indoors. SMCOE will also arrange for students and staff to eat outdoors as much as feasible.
- YMCA staff will clean frequently touched surfaces. Surfaces that come in contact with food should be washed, rinsed, and sanitized before and after meals.
- Given the very low risk of transmission from surfaces and shared objects, there is no need to limit food service approaches to single use items and packaged meals.
- Students will eat in cabin groups with as much space as possible between these cabin groups. Masks will be required in the dining halls except while eating.
- The high school cabin leader will be the only person allowed to leave the table to pick up, serve, and return food.

Training

- SMCOE staff will participate in a safety protocol meeting with an SMCOE nurse and Outdoor Education medic to review and discuss this plan.

- A copy of this plan will be shared with families and staff will review the school's safety protocols and expectations for families.
- Both staff and families will have the opportunity to ask questions and get a clear understanding of the plan.

Visitors

Only parents picking up their child for medical reasons and essential, vaccinated school staff will be allowed at Outdoor Education while in session.

Screening Testing

- In order to attend camp, students are required to have a negative COVID-19 test within 3 days of the first day of camp.
- Students will be symptom checked before entering bus to travel to camp.
- Students will undergo daily symptom checking by cabin leaders.

Definitions

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

Close Contact: anyone who was within 0-6 feet of a Case for more than 15 minutes over a 24-hour period.

Testing of Staff or Students Who Previously Had COVID-19

People who have tested positive for COVID-19 within the past three months and recovered do not need to get tested following an exposure as long as they do not develop new symptoms.

Newly exposed *unvaccinated students* who previously tested positive for COVID-19 and recovered will not be tested but must go home to quarantine.

Newly exposed *vaccinated students* who previously tested positive for COVID-19 and recovered will not be tested and may remain at camp while continuing to monitor for symptoms.

Testing and Quarantine of Vaccinated Close Contacts for Staff

SMCOE will follow the CDPH's guidance for schools on response testing and quarantine, which include the following:

- Fully vaccinated staff should get tested if experiencing **COVID-19 symptoms**.
- If fully vaccinated staff test positive for COVID-19, they should follow CDPH and local health department guidance regarding isolation and/or exclusion from high risk settings.
- Fully vaccinated staff with no COVID-19 symptoms should be tested 3-5 days after exposure to someone with COVID-19.
- Following a known exposure at work, fully vaccinated staff do not need to quarantine if asymptomatic.
- Staff should continue to monitor for symptoms for 14 days.

Testing and Quarantine of Close Contacts for Students

Unvaccinated Close Contacts:

- Will quarantine at camp while awaiting pick up to home for quarantine
- Will remain masked
- A rapid antigen test will be administered
- Once home, students who are close contacts need to continue to quarantine according to public health guidance
- In the event of hardship, 14-day quarantine may be shortened. Those who remain asymptomatic may discontinue self-quarantine:
 - After Day 10 from the date of last exposure without testing; or
 - After Day 7 if a diagnostic specimen is collected after Day 5 from the date of last exposure and tests negative.
 - To discontinue quarantine before 14 days following last known exposure, asymptomatic close contacts must:

- Continue daily self-monitoring for symptoms through Day 14 from last known exposure; **and**
 - Follow all recommended non-pharmaceutical interventions (e.g., wearing a mask when around others, hand washing, avoiding crowds) through Day 14 from last known exposure.
- If any symptoms develop during this 14-day period, the exposed person must immediately isolate, get tested, and contact their healthcare provider with any questions regarding their care

Vaccinated Close Contacts:

- May continue to stay (with parent/guardian permission) at Outdoor Education with cabin group
- A rapid antigen test will be administered
- A second rapid antigen test on day 3 after exposure will be done at camp if calendar allows. (Otherwise parent/guardian to be advised to have a COVID-19 test done once home.)
- Cabin Leaders and Camp Medic (and, once at home, parent/guardian) to continue to monitor student for symptoms daily for 14 days
- If a student becomes symptomatic, test at onset of symptoms and follow protocol based on results

Testing

- An FDA-approved diagnostic test is acceptable for evaluation of an individual's COVID-19 status. This includes antigen diagnostic tests and PCR diagnostic tests.
- All staff will receive a COVID-19 test once a week. The cadence may change based upon conditions in the community.
- Students are required to submit proof of a negative COVID-19 test taken within three days of the first day of camp.
- Students and staff may be subject to COVID-19 test at camp if symptoms of COVID-19 are present or for surveillance for a vaccinated exposed individual.

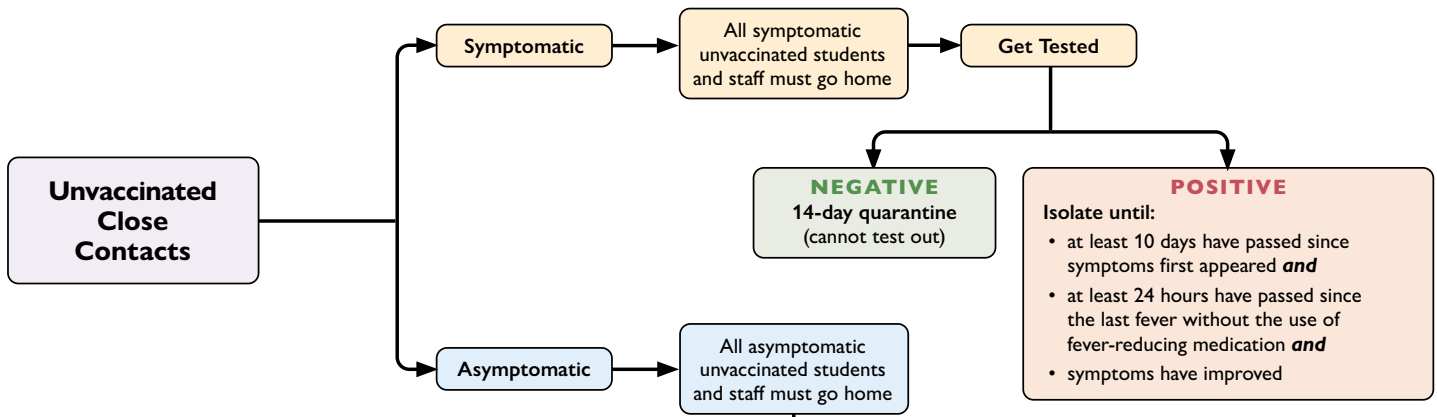
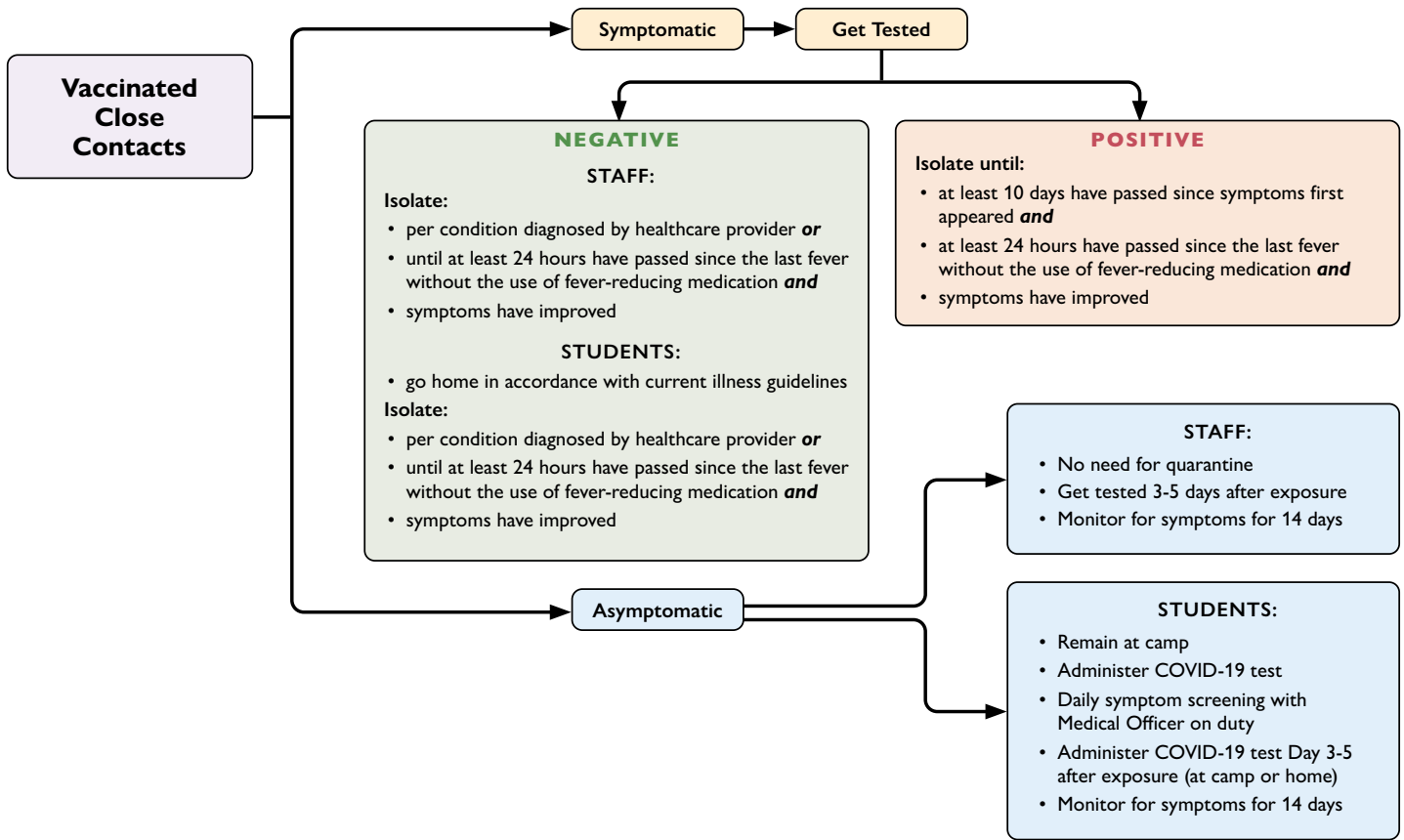
Case Reporting and Contact Tracing

- The COVID-19 Point Person for Outdoor Education will report all COVID-19 cases and clusters of undiagnosed respiratory illness to San Mateo County Health CD Control as soon as practicable (within 24 hours) at COVID19_SchoolTeam@smcgov.org.
- All cases will be reported to the OE Principal, the Outdoor Education Director, and to the San Mateo County Office of Education at info@smcoe.org.
- Outdoor Education will notify the student's school of any positive cases and any close contacts that are identified at Outdoor Education.
- OE will follow all instructions given by San Mateo County Health (SMCH) which may include maintenance of a line list, providing student information for contact tracing, etc.
- Parents/guardians of students who are identified as cases and/or as possible close contacts will be notified by phone call.

Outbreaks

In the case of multiple positive COVID-19 cases at Outdoor Education (OE), San Mateo County Health will be consulted to see if any further quarantine or testing needs to be implemented.

COVID-19 Exposure at San Mateo Outdoor Education



QUARANTINE AT HOME

In the event of hardship, exposed asymptomatic people can shorten their 14-day quarantine period. However, they must continue to monitor symptoms for 14 days after exposure. If any symptoms develop in the next 14 days, the exposed person must immediately isolate, get tested, and contact their healthcare provider with any questions regarding their care.

End Quarantine After Day 7
For those who remain asymptomatic:

- After Day 5, get a COVID-19 test that shows a result of negative; **and**
- Continue daily self-monitoring for symptoms through Day 14 from last known exposure; **and**
- Follow all recommended non-pharmaceutical interventions (e.g., wearing a mask when around others, hand washing, avoiding crowds) through Day 14 from last known exposure.

End Quarantine After Day 10
For those who remain asymptomatic:

- Continue daily self-monitoring for symptoms through Day 14 from last known exposure; **and**
- Follow all recommended non-pharmaceutical interventions (e.g., wearing a mask when around others, hand washing, avoiding crowds) through Day 14 from last known exposure.
- Exposed asymptomatic people may end quarantine after Day 10 without a test.