

“I AM” School

Guide to address the challenges of Covid-19 in School

Introduction

The “I AM” School is fully committed to incorporating the best practices and safety protocols for in-person instruction on our school site as safely and effectively as possible, with as much normalcy as possible.

All employees are responsible for using safe work practices, following all directives, policies, and procedures, and assisting in maintaining a safe school environment.

The principles of the COVID-19 concern will be addressed in this overview and will include student physical distancing, limiting mixing of students, wearing facemasks, environmental cleaning, and keeping both students and staff who are sick, at home.

The “I AM” School will use the California Department of Public Health Guidance, but because our school is unique in its student size, facilities staff, and resources available, how that may look exactly, will look differently than other schools.

COVID-19

How is COVID-19 Spread?

COVID-19 is spread mainly from person-to-person, via air droplets that contain the virus. For example: when a person sneezes, coughs or talks, the virus is exhaled by the infected person and then inhaled by a nearby person. Some people do not show any signs or symptoms of being ill, but can still spread the virus. The virus can also spread when a person touches objects and surfaces that have a virus on it and then touches their eyes, nose or mouth.

How can we prevent transmission?

The virus can spread easily from person-to-person, so taking necessary precautions is an important way to keep you, your family, friends and community safe. The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus. Key prevention practices include:

- Physical distancing to the maximum extent possible
- Washing hands with soap and water, frequently, for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available then use hand sanitizer (at least 60% alcohol.)
- Using a cloth face cover for your nose and mouth, unless you have a difficult time breathing.
- Covering your coughs/sneezes. If you use a tissue, throw it away immediately and wash your hands.
- Cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces.
- Monitoring you and your family’s health by taking temperatures and watching for signs and symptoms of COVID-19.

CORONAVIRUS

SYMPTOMS

People with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported – ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness.



SYMPTOMS MAY APPEAR 2-14 DAYS AFTER EXPOSURE TO THE VIRUS.
PEOPLE WITH THESE SYMPTOMS MAY HAVE COVID-19:



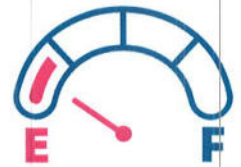
FEVER



COUGH



SHORTNESS OF
BREATH



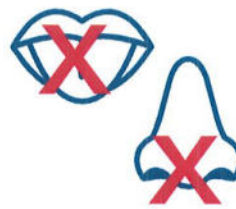
FATIGUE



MUSCLE OR
BODY ACHES



HEADACHE



NEW LOSS OF
TASTE OR SMELL



SORE THROAT



CONGESTION OR
RUNNY NOSE



NAUSEA OR
VOMITING



DIARRHEA

Before Coming to School

Screening at home-

Families are encouraged to take temperatures as necessary before sending students to school. Anyone with a fever of 100.4 degrees or higher should stay home

Students should be screened for COVID-19 symptoms prior to coming to school. Those experiencing symptoms should not attend school.

Please contact the school if someone in your home or close contact has been diagnosed with COVID-19. Depending on the situation, your child may likely need to stay home for 10-14 days.

School staff will also be asked to screen before leaving for school and stay home if they have symptoms.

Arriving at and Picking up from school

Transportation – Minimizing Contact –

As our enrolment is very small, transportation is done by the parents. In order to minimize contact, our arrival times are staggered.

Wellness Checks –

School staff will be asked to conduct wellness checks for all students complaining of illness or symptoms upon arrival, (at the school) and take students' temperatures with a no-touch thermometer upon entering the school site for those who need attention.

Signs of Illness –

Anyone experiencing shortness of breath will be isolated in the administrator's office from others and observed. Face coverings are not recommended for anyone who has trouble breathing unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the covering without assistance. Per our local health Authority, a student or staff member who has measured temperature of 100.4 degrees or greater will not be allowed to return to school (work) until they can show proof of a negative coronavirus test. This applies to sibling of the student with a fever as well.

Any staff member in the position of caring for an ill person will be trained in the appropriate use of personal protective equipment. Staff caring for a student at school who is actively vomiting or continuously coughing will don the appropriate PPE's. (N95 mask, eye protection, cover gown and gloves.)

Precautions throughout the day at school

Cleaning/Disinfecting Guidelines –

Schools will follow Center for Disease Control & Prevention cleaning and disinfecting guidelines.

The guidelines include requirements for cleaning high touch points (door handles, light switches, bathroom surfaces, classroom surfaces, technology, etc .) at the school throughout the day.

Handwashing Routine –

Routines will be established with teachers and students to regularly wash their hands; and as we have sinks in every classroom handwashing/hand sanitizing stations will be available.

Ventilation –

Windows and doors will be open as much as possible to provide fresh air. System will be on ventilation mode full time and filters will be changed regularly in the AC/Heating system to allow for cleanliness. We also have UVC light purifiers which are used when the students have left for the day.

School Guests/Visitors –

All exterior doors will be locked to control entrance by those not authorized or necessary on campus. Any and all visitors must contact and be admitted by office personnel. Authorized check in, identification and admission needs to be cleared by office staff. **Service Providers and guests** entering campus after signing in will be required to follow the same guidelines as staff and students (hand hygiene, face coverings, physical distancing).

School Meals –

As we have no food services, students come to school with their own lunches. We have three separate eating areas to maintain social distancing; and we encourage students to eat outside when it is feasible to do so.

Use of refillable water bottles is encouraged for all staff and students.

Signs of Illness while at School –

Any student or staff exhibiting symptoms should be required to immediately wear face covering, wait in a supervised isolation area until they can be transported home or to a health care facility.

STOP THE SPREAD OF GERMS

Help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases like COVID-19.



WASH

Wash your hands with soap and water often, and for at least 20 seconds.



COVER

Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash and wash your hands.



DO NOT TOUCH

Do not touch your eyes, nose, or mouth.



SOCIAL DISTANCE

Stay at least 6 feet (about 2 arm's length) from other people.

Precautions throughout the School Day

Physical Distancing Measures –

Classrooms have been set up for a maximum capacity that meets the minimum distancing standards between seats/desks. Our classes on average have six or less students.

Teacher’s desks will be at least 6 feet from student desks. Students are required to bring their own materials to class so that the use of shared items will be limited, and cleaning will be done after each use.

School schedules may vary, however at this time, the regular school day will be in place. As long as we can provide the precaution of social distancing, and scheduling within the current class sizes, we will continue with this model.

Because of the smallness of our campus and student body, student groupings by grade level will provide for less mixing of the overall student population. This will help with the distancing aspect of the day.

Traffic flow between classes will be monitored to allow for distancing efforts to be followed. All students are to remain in the classroom once class has begun, with no wandering unnecessary moving around the campus.

We will utilize non-classroom spaces as necessary for instruction, including outdoor spaces, as weather permits.

Face Coverings –

Cloth/paper face coverings will be worn by students and staff, especially when social distancing cannot be accomplished. The school will purchase an initial supply of cloth and paper masks, in order to insure that all staff and students are properly protected as necessary.

Proper use of Face Coverings –

Wash your hands before putting on the face covering.

Place the covering over the nose and mouth and secure it under the chin.

Try to fit it snugly against the sides of the face, while making sure you can breathe easily.

Cleaning Face Coverings –

Cloth face covering should be washed after each daily use, either by using warm water with laundry detergent or by hand using 4 teaspoons of bleach per quart of room temperature water.

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Physical Education

- Activities will be held outdoors.
- All equipment will be sanitized at the end of each use; personal items and equipment should not be shared.
- Physical Education activities will be ones where social distancing can be maintained.
- Physical activities that require less contact with surfaces will be encouraged.
- Gathering, events and extracurricular activities will be limited to those that can maintain physical distancing and support proper hand hygiene.

Students with underlying Health Conditions –

Families are encouraged to discuss safety concerns regarding return to class with their child's healthcare provider to determine if the student should continue with remote learning at any time throughout the school year. This conversation should also occur with school staff in order that we may prepare the proper learning environment for the student.

COVID-19 Procedures

Communication and coordination with our families and community is an important part of keeping our school open.

Procedures for potential school closure and subsequent re-openings will be based on indicators of COVID-19 transmission in the school and the community, and will continue to evolve as we learn more about COVID-19. Siskiyou County Public Health and the Siskiyou County Office of Education will provide specific guidance on this to schools and districts as information becomes available. Procedures to investigate COVID-19 cases at school will include contact tracing conducted in coordination with school officials. Please be prepared in the event of a classroom or school closure situation.

This document is subject to change as the guidance from the California Department of Public Health and the local Health Authority give updated information and guidance. For instance, currently, passive screening at home before coming to school is recommended. If conditions change, the PHD may require active screening.

Safety Plans will be modified as the California Department of Public Health Guidance is updated.