



Davis Waldorf School

Inspired Learning for the Whole Child

COVID GUIDELINES FOR THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR



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INTRODUCTION

The Davis Waldorf School Board, Faculty and Staff have developed procedures and guidelines based on the recommendations of the CDC and CDPH to ensure our community remains safe. In the last 18 months there has been so much change in our world. Last year, the COVID pandemic closed many schools and forced others to switch to hybrid or distance learning. We are thankful that with careful planning and re-development of our campus we were able to be in-person and on campus for the majority of the 2020-2021 school year.

Policies were first developed to keep our community safe under our Waiver Reopening Plan and then redeveloped in April of 2021, when all CA schools were required to develop a COVID Safety Plan. This document will replace these two prior documents as our updated COVID Safety Plan to mitigate the spread of COVID during the 2021-2022 school year.

Our goals remain the same: to prioritize the safety and wellbeing of our students and employees and to provide a comprehensive learning program that supports the development of the 'whole child'. We offer this guide so that our community may remain informed. We want to acknowledge that the COVID pandemic is ever-changing and updates to our plan may occur as necessary to reflect new information or government mandates.

COVID POLICIES

School Schedule and Drop Off

Last year, each class had their own individual drop-off zone with staggered drop-off times. This year, the 1st - 8th grade students may be dropped in 3 areas: the front school circle, the back school circle, or at the church and walking onto campus using the kindergarten gate. Early Childhood families may continue using the kindergarten parking lot and front circle loop. If you will need more time during drop-off, parking at the church and walking onto campus is the best

option. Families are welcome to drop off 15 minutes before the start of school. We will continue having staggered drop-offs as follows.

DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP TIMES

Program	Start of Day	End of Day*
Preschool	8:00 AM	12:45 PM
Kindergarten	8:00 AM	1:00 PM
1st Grade	8:15 AM	1:45 PM
2nd Grade	8:15 AM	2:25 PM
3rd Grade	8:15 AM	3:10 PM
4th Grade	8:15 AM	3:10 PM
5th Grade	8:30 AM	3:10 PM
6th Grade	8:30 AM	3:10 PM
7th Grade	8:30 AM	3:10 PM
8th Grade	8:30 AM	3:10 PM

** On Fridays, all programs (except preschool) are released at 1:00 PM following our Early Release Schedule.*

Figure 1. School Schedule Chart

Cohorting

Classes will mix for certain activities such as recess and after-school activities. Our 1st - 4th grade will use the lower schoolyard and circle for play. Mid-year the fourth grade will transfer to the middle school yard where the 5th - 8th grade play.

Outside Time

Unless we are experiencing severe weather or poor air quality, students will spend 25 - 50% of their time outdoors. Classes will continue to utilize the outdoor educational spaces for parts of the day, and in particular for activities that have a higher risk of transmission, such as eating. Your teacher will advise you of the outdoor schedule for each class. The outdoor classrooms provide us with the ability to be flexible and increase outdoor time, as needed.

Inside Time

Face coverings will be worn by employees and students indoors at all times. During the 2020-2021 school year the school purchased enough HEPA UVC air purifiers for each classroom to have 3 - 4 air purifiers, depending on classroom size. On May 17, 2021 a representative from Healthy Davis Together visited campus to analyze the air purification system. The school purchased additional air purifiers based on their subsequent recommendation. Air filters were replaced this summer in preparation for the new school year.

Health Screenings

Last year, the school utilized an app to support the screening of employees and students. This year we ask all families and employees to continue screening at home without the use of the School Wellness Screener app. By stepping onto campus you are affirming you are in good health and free of COVID symptoms.

Face Coverings

We will require all students and staff members to wear masks indoors. Masks are optional for students when outdoors. Outside staff members will wear masks when working closely (3 feet or less) with an individual student for a sustained period (longer than 5 minutes).

We ask that parents wear face coverings both inside and outside when on campus during the school day or when picking up from our aftercare programs. Face coverings are optional during parent meetings that occur outdoors.

All visitors are asked to wear face coverings both indoors and outdoors.

Acceptable Face Coverings

A cloth face covering is a **2-layer (minimum)** material that covers the nose and mouth. It may also contain a filter. It can be secured with ties or straps around the ears or head, or simply wrapped around the lower face. It can be made of a variety of materials, such as cotton, silk, or linen. See images below for examples of acceptable cloth face coverings..



Testing

While testing is encouraged for all employees, we are requiring all unvaccinated employees to undergo testing weekly. Testing is an important mitigation measure and shortens periods of absence. We encourage students to test weekly, as well.

Vaccination

In line with CDC guidance, we support and encourage our employees to vaccinate to prevent the spread of COVID-19. We encourage individuals to speak with their medical provider about any questions they may have regarding the COVID-19 vaccine.

Eating

Eating will occur outdoors as much as feasible. In inclement weather or when the AQI is high, eating may occur indoors. An effort will be made to physically distance when eating indoors. Hot lunch items and other food items may once again be prepared on campus. Masks and gloves are required while serving or preparing hot lunch.

Students may participate in cooking activities with their class. Masks will be worn when preparing food whether inside or outdoors. Students will be guided to wash their hands prior to food preparation or eating. Adults will be required to wear gloves while preparing food.

Aftercare

We will have separate preschool and kindergarten napping rooms. Per licensing guidelines, when laying down in their nap areas the children will not wear face coverings. Face coverings will be used indoors at all other times. In the late afternoon the preschool and kindergarten program will combine. The preschool and kindergarten aftercare program will spend most of their time outdoors, but may go inside when the weather is cold, very rainy, or when the AQI is poor.

Our 1st - 4th grades aftercare program will also spend most of their time outdoors. They may go inside when the weather is cold, very rainy, dark, or when the AQI is poor. They will utilize the same indoor space, the aftercare room, as needed. Face coverings will be worn at all times when indoors.

Symptoms

We ask parents not to send students to school and employees to stay home if they have any of the following symptoms:

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

If an employee or student has symptoms of COVID, they must seek testing and provide laboratory results confirming their health status is appropriate for return to school, or provide an alternative diagnosis from their medical provider. In both instances, an employee or student may not return to campus until symptoms have improved and fever, if any, has resolved more than 24 hours prior to returning to school without the use of fever reducing medications.

If the family chooses not to test, then the student and their siblings that attend DWS must isolate for 10 days before returning to campus.

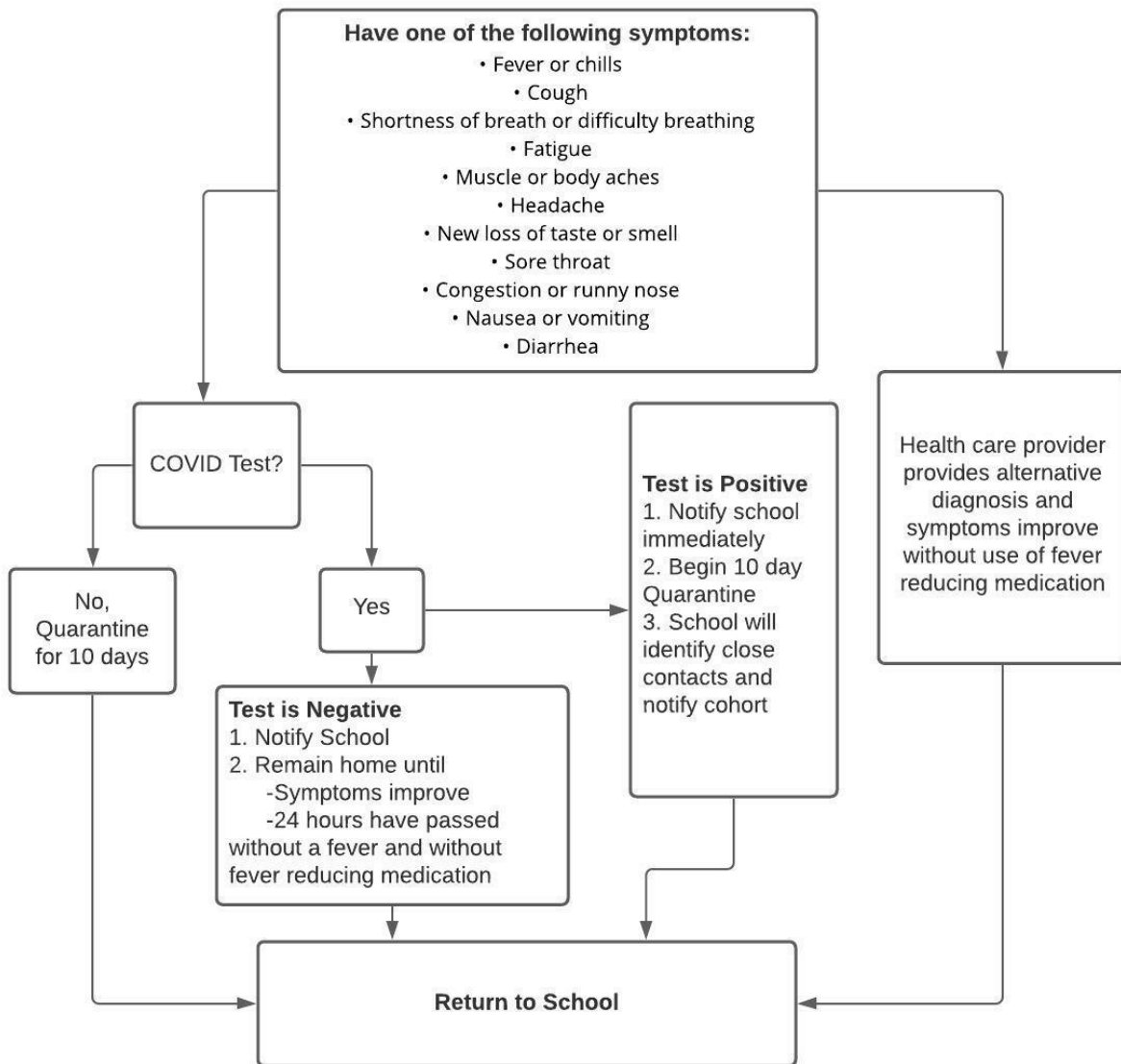


Figure 2. Return to School After Symptoms Flowchart

Close Contact

The California Department of Public Health no longer considers all students in a class to be a close contact. The Davis Waldorf School will continue to notify the entire class community in the event of a close contact or a positive case in the class cohort. A close contact is defined as someone who was within [6 feet of an infected person](#) for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period. The quarantine period for a close contact varies based on whether the close contact is vaccinated and whether the individual is a student or employee. Please refer to Figure 3 for information on quarantine periods for close contacts.

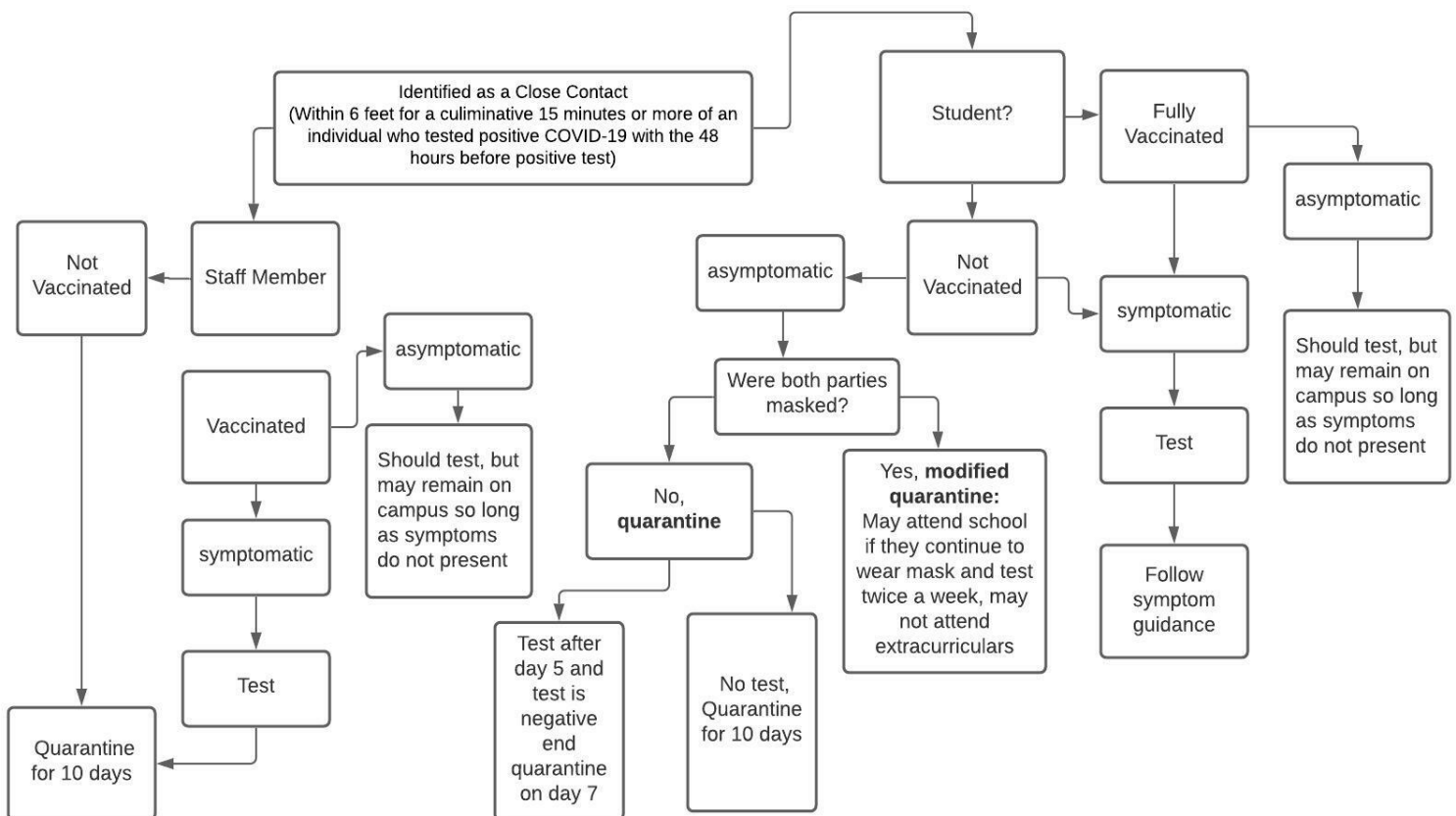


Figure 3. Quarantine Periods for Close Contacts Flowchart

Travel Guidelines

After traveling, we ask families to be extra vigilant and look out for COVID symptoms. We highly encourage testing after all travel, including domestic travel. We ask families to follow CDC guidance and quarantine themselves from school for 7 days after returning from international travel. Students may return to school after day 7 along with a negative test that was performed on or after the 5th day following their date of return.

Visitors and Festivals

We are glad to be able to share the joy and wonder of Waldorf education with our school parents through festivals and classroom volunteering. We will consider festival attendance on a case by case basis. Volunteering in the classroom will be limited to 3 volunteers per 3 - 4 week block. Volunteers will be asked to test weekly regardless of vaccination status.

Field Trips

We look forward to our students enjoying field trips. Guidance and information on field trips including carpooling, overnight trips and chaperones will be forthcoming.

Music and Singing

We are awaiting guidance from CDPH on singing and music programs and will update as soon as possible.

SMOKE POLICIES

- To mitigate for Covid-19 as well as for smoke, we will employ the use of HEPA and UV air filtration systems in the classrooms that circulate the air, per recommendations from CDC and CDPH.
- The school will purchase FDA approved KN95 masks for Employees and Students (2 per employee / student).
- If the AQI is above 200 for more than two hours, school will be cancelled. We do not anticipate that the AQI will be in the 200 range often. In the last 4 years, the AQI has only been in the 200 range twice.
- If you have additional concerns, or if your child has a medical condition that is aggravated by poor air quality, we recommend keeping your child home from school. This will be considered an excused absence.
- The Davis Waldorf School utilizes [Airnow.gov](https://airnow.gov) when making decisions regarding school closures. We also monitor the following sites or programs: Breezometer, PurpleAir and IQair. In the event of conflicting information, DWS will err on the side of caution and use the most commonly circulated AQI rates.

AQI	Grades	Early Childhood
Days between 100-125	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will be outdoors for recess, lunch and up to 3 periods taught outdoors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will be outside for less than 2 hours
Days between 125-150	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will be outdoors for recess, lunch and up to 2 periods taught outdoors • May have snack and lunch indoors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will be outside for less than 1 hour • Snack and Lunch will be indoors
Days between 150-175	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will be outdoors for recess and up to 1 period taught outdoors • Snack and Lunch will be indoors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will be outside for half an hour or less • Snack and Lunch will be indoors
Days between 175-200	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will be outdoors for a shortened recess • Snack and Lunch will be indoors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will remain indoors • Snack and Lunch will be indoors

Days above 200	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School will be canceled 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School will be canceled
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Figure 4.AQI Index & Smoke Policies Chart

SOURCES FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools in California, 2021-22 School Year
[SOURCE: California Department of Public Health (CDPH)]
<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/K-12-Guidance-2021-22-School-Year.aspx>
- Guidance for Child Care Providers and Programs
[SOURCE: California Department of Public Health (CDPH)]
<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Child-Care-Guidance.aspx>
- Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools
[SOURCE: Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)]
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html>