



AMADOR COUNTY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Health and Safety Plan during COVID-19 for a Safe Return to School

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The COVID-19 pandemic has immensely changed our lives in so many ways. As we wait for a vaccine and treatment, we must work together to mitigate the risk in our community, while still educating and supporting the health and well-being of our students.

We are establishing new norms within our schools and office spaces - understanding it will take time and constant positive reinforcement to teach and learn these new ways of being. We urge our community to lean into this new normal and create a physically and emotionally safe space for everyone.

Physical distancing does not come naturally or easy. Maintaining physical distance violates so many of our social norms, especially for those we are closest with.

As we navigate our new normal, we must support each other in remaining humble and flexible. We continue to learn about COVID-19, and as the science changes our responses may need to change as well. We may find ourselves adopting new strategies or measures - and quickly having to revise our plans.

Flexibility is key as we try to contain the spread of COVID-19. As the CDC advises, there may be times when we need to return to remaining safer at home. In any situation, we will work together with our community, relying on our collective ingenuity and creativity to help us respond and address changes as needed.

Public Health Recommendations

This plan was developed using recommendations from the California Department of Public Health, California Department of Education, Amador County Public Health, Sacramento County Office of Education, California School Nurses Organization, and the Centers for Disease Control to meet the unique needs of our school community.

Health Precautions for Students and Staff

How COVID-19 Spreads:

As we discuss mitigation measures, it is important for our community to know how COVID-19 is spread and controlled. COVID-19 is mostly spread by respiratory droplets released when people talk, sing, laugh, cough, or sneeze. There is also evidence that the virus spreads from contaminated surfaces to hands and then to the nose, mouth, or eyes, causing infection.

Personal Preventative Measures

To help prevent additional spread and to keep our schools open, our students and staff will be required to practice the following personal prevention measures:

- Physical distancing
- Hand hygiene
- Face coverings
- Cough/sneeze etiquette
- Active and passive screening

Mitigation Measures for Students and Staff

Health Screening:

Passive (Self) Screening: Staff and students must self-screen for symptoms at home daily. This is called passive screening. If a person is sick or exhibits symptoms of COVID-19, they may not come to school and will follow Stay at Home and Return to School Requirements. Signs of illness include fever or chills (100.4 degrees or higher), 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, and diarrhea per CDC guidelines.

Active Screening - Temperature Checks and Procedures: Active screening requires all students and staff entering a site or school bus to be screened for illness including a temperature check and review of signs and symptoms of illness. Any student or staff with a temperature of 100.4 degrees or higher, or signs or symptoms of illness per Stay at Home Requirements shall return home. Students and staff must enter through required controlled entry and exit locations at each site. Sites shall set up controlled entry and exit screening locations and ensure staff and students understand and follow disease prevention precautions. Students and staff approaching the entry must be wearing a cloth face covering, unless exempted under CDC criteria. Face coverings will be available for those who do not have their own.

Process for Daily Student Screening:

- Temperature checks will be done before students leave vehicles when at all possible. If this is not possible, students will wait in a line with appropriate physical distancing. Visual cues will be used to indicate spacing. Signage with reminders about distancing, masks, hygiene, and stay at home rules will be posted.
- Parents/guardians and students must wear a face cloth covering.
- If possible, have the parent/guardian remain with the student while screening occurs, in case the student is not well enough to attend school.

Staff instructions for student screening:

- Take temperature.
- Ask if any signs or symptoms of illness – how are you today? Are you sick at all?
- Look at the person for any visible signs of illness.
- If the temperature is less than 100.4 degrees, the student reports no sign or symptoms of illness, and the student appears well, then direct the student to wash hands and enter campus. If the student has any sign of illness and the parent is not present, send them to a designated isolation space to call the parent and return home. Provide the parent with the Stay at Home Policy information sheet.
- If staff is unable to reach the parent, the student must be isolated in a Sick Student Area following the Guidelines for Caring for Sick Children on site until the parent can be reached.

Physical Distancing

Everyone must practice physical distancing.

This means keeping at least 6 feet from other people at all times. Maintaining adequate space is one of the best tools available to avoid exposure to COVID-19 and slow its

spread. Appropriate physical distancing can sometimes be difficult to maintain, such as when walking in a busy hallway or in large crowds, making required face coverings even more vital.

Face Coverings

Wear a cloth face covering.

Wearing a cloth face covering prevents a person from spreading respiratory droplets while talking, singing, breathing, or coughing. They are primarily meant to protect other people in case the wearer is unknowingly infected (many people carry COVID-19 but do not have symptoms). Cloth face coverings are not surgical masks, respirators, or personal protective equipment.

- Cloth face coverings are required to be worn by all staff members.
- Cloth face coverings are strongly encouraged for students in grades TK-2.
- Cloth face coverings are required for all students in grades 3-12.

Cloth face coverings protect our community from the spread of COVID-19:

Wearing a cloth face covering is required for all ACUSD staff, students, parents/guardians and visitors unless it is not recommended by a physician or is inappropriate for the developmental level of the individual, per the Department of Public Health. A list of exceptions can be found on the following page.

Face coverings must be worn by staff and students at all times including:

- While entering or exiting school grounds or district spaces
- While on school grounds with few exceptions
- While on a school bus
- Engaged in work, whether at the workplace or performing work off-site, when:
 - Interacting in-person with any member of the public;
 - Working in any space visited by members of the public, regardless of whether anyone from the public is present at the time.
- Students refusing to wear face coverings will be excluded from in-person attendance in the hybrid model and assigned to distance learning.

Face Shields:

- Face shields may be used by teachers to enable students to see their faces and to avoid potential barriers to phonological instruction.
- Face shields with a cloth drape can be used for those who are unable to wear face coverings for medical reasons. Per Cal/OSHA, considerations for face shields should include a cloth drape attached across the bottom and tucked into the shirt.

Guidance for daily use of face coverings:

- Use a freshly washed or clean face covering for each on-site visit.
- Clean your hands with soap and water or hand sanitizer before touching the face covering.
- If you are not already wearing it, apply your face covering before coming onto school grounds.
- Avoid eating or drinking while wearing the face covering.
- Cloth face coverings should not have valves, as these permit droplet release from the covering, putting others nearby at risk. ACUSD will not permit face coverings with valves.

How to remove a face covering:

- Wash your hands with soap and water or use hand sanitizer before touching the face covering. Avoid touching the front of the covering, which may be contaminated.
- Only handle the face covering by the ties, bands or loops.
- Throw any disposable face covering in a waste container.
- Wash your cloth face covering by hand with warm water and soap or in the washing machine.
- Wash your hands with soap and water or use hand sanitizer.

A cloth face covering should not be worn in the following situations:

- Young children, especially those under age 2
- A physician has recommended avoiding use due to an existing condition, for example individuals with respiratory health conditions, such as asthma.
- For those with hearing impairments, or communicating with a person who is hearing impaired, where the ability to see their mouth is essential for communication. Face shields would be recommended in this situation.
- Persons with a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability that prevents wearing a face covering. This includes persons with a medical condition for whom wearing a face covering could obstruct breathing or who are unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove a face covering without assistance.
- Persons who are eating or drinking, provided that they are able to maintain a distance of at least six feet away from persons who are not members of the same household or residence.
- Persons who are engaged in outdoor work or recreation when alone and able to maintain a distance of at least six feet from others.

The cloth face covering requirement is based on the current public health orders, however these procedures may be revised if additional relevant guidance is issued.

Practice Hand Hygiene

Wash or Sanitize Hands Frequently

All students and staff must wash hands frequently. If soap and water are not available use district approved greater than 60% alcohol-based hand sanitizer. This district will provide written instruction and signage on proper hand washing techniques. The following guidelines are recommended for school settings. At minimum, students and staff must wash their hands or use hand sanitizer:

- Upon arrival to the school site
- Before lunch
- Before leaving the site
- Upon entry to any new classroom
- When using the restroom
- When visibly dirty
- After using a tissue, coughing into hands
- Upon arriving home

Use Respiratory Hygiene

Use respiratory hygiene at all times on site. Once a tissue is used, throw it away in a waste container and then wash hands with soap and water or use hand sanitizer. Do not touch the face. Reinforce respiratory hygiene or cough/sneeze etiquette, including use of tissues and elbows by using signage, training, and lessons. See Appendix K for signage.

Staff Working in the Community

When going into the community for essential contact such as home visits, always use personal hygiene and distancing precautions. This includes hand washing/sanitizing, wearing a cloth face covering, distancing at least 6 feet, and respiratory hygiene. Consult with Health Services for specific questions, or for recommendations about situations that may put you at higher risk of exposure or may expose others to communicable disease such as COVID-19.

Mitigation Standards for ACUSD Sites

To protect students, staff and visitors to school sites, ACUSD staff will evaluate all spaces and make modifications in order to maximize ventilation and meet physical distancing requirements of at least 6 feet. When staff and students return to campus, they will return to a physical space that enables all individuals to follow recommended health precautions. This includes signage in every space with occupancy limits and health hygiene reminders. To limit potential exposure, physical spaces will be designed in a way to limit close contact between individuals. Below is a list of standards to be followed at each ACUSD site:

Ventilation and Air Flow

- Sites will replace all HVAC filters 3 times per year (July, November, and March) as is the standard practice.
- Sites will run continuous HVAC fans operating throughout the 24-hour cycle
- Reprogram HVAC systems to run when windows and doors are open.
- Keep windows and doors open, if possible, to increase airflow.

Entrances & Exits (Pick-Up & Drop-Off)

ACUSD will take every measure to minimize crowding at drop-off and pick-up times:

- Consider staggering start and end times.
- Student pick-up and drop-off should occur outside the school gates/entrance. Encourage parents to stay in cars when dropping off and picking students up.
- Add visual cues or barriers to direct traffic flow and ensure distancing if there is queuing.
- Develop signage and processes to minimize interactions between families.
- If possible, divide student entry points rather than funneling all students through the same entry space. These approaches can limit the amount of close contact between students in high-traffic situations and times.
- Schools may need to lock entrances that are not set up with screening staff.
- Provide access to hand washing or hand sanitizer and cloth face coverings at entrances.

Office Spaces

- Provide Plexiglas barriers when close contact is likely such as at the front desk that do not allow for physical distancing of at least 6 feet.
- Arrange staff desks at least 6 feet apart.
- Arrange desks and equipment away from flow of other staff members using the office.

- Provide individualized supplies for each workstation - limiting the number of individuals using shared objects.
- Provide additional access to hand washing or hand sanitizer - especially near shared objects like photocopiers, etc.

Designated “Care Room”

- Sites must designate an area for sick individuals where they can be isolated while waiting to be assessed and go home.
- Ensure good ventilation.
- Ensure the following supplies are available: hand sanitizer, face coverings, disinfectant, thermometer, trash can with liner.
- Room must be disinfected after each use.
- Room must be close to staff and supervised.
- If more than one individual is sick, maintain as much physical distance and ventilation as possible.

Classrooms

- Sanitizer will be provided in every classroom.
- Classrooms should open windows and doors if possible to maximize ventilation.
- Utilize other campus spaces for instructional activities (e.g..., gyms, auditoriums, cafeterias, outdoors) whenever possible.
- Classroom layout should include:
 - 6 feet of distance between all student desks/seating
 - Continuous spacing of 6 feet must be provided for teaching staff at the front of the classroom
 - Enough room near walls for students to move out of their desks
 - Limited use of large tables where students may slide around and breach the 6 ft of spacing between individuals. If using tables, mark off areas and alternate seating at each end of the table to ensure distancing
- Develop activities that model and reinforce good hygiene and physical distancing practices
- Limit sharing of materials/supplies; consider individual supply bags versus communal bins
- For younger students: Modify activities that bring students close together to maintain distance between students
- Use classroom materials to help students visualize the required 6-foot distance between people
- Provide supplies and protocol for disinfecting surfaces between classes or when student groups change

- Provide access to hand washing or hand sanitizer and cloth face coverings at entrances.

Common areas

- Evaluate areas such as yards, quads, library, cafeteria, playground, and make modifications to encourage social distancing, for example: dots 6 feet apart, squares, lines, arrows, and taped off barriers.
- Drinking fountains should be closed — encourage the use of reusable water bottles for students to use throughout the day, identify water sources.

Support areas

- Consider providing a safe place for students who need additional supports, study areas, after school tutoring, or internet access during distance learning.
- Set up these areas to comply with distancing guidelines using tape, signage etc.
- Provide access to hand washing or hand sanitizer and cloth face coverings at entrances.
- Post clear signage for occupancy, hygiene, distancing.
- Provide supplies for disinfecting surfaces between students.

Bathrooms

- Ensure all bathrooms have soap, paper towels, and refuse containers.
 - Paper towels will be provided and are recommended for use over air dryers.
- Staff should disinfect sink handles, toilet handle, and door handle in staff bathroom after each use.
- Additional staff should be assigned to disinfect student bathrooms regularly.
- Evaluate stalls and urinals to ensure at least 6 feet distancing of users. Tape off or install barriers.
- Post clear signage for occupancy, hygiene, distancing.
- Avoid taking large groups to the bathrooms at once (e.g., avoid having all classes use the bathroom right after lunch or recess) or maintain distancing in a line.

Hallways

- Evaluate traffic flow and post arrows, signs and floor decals to guide flow in one direction. Provide delineator cones, stanchions or guide-ropes that create lanes in larger hallways.
- Post signage that encourages safe greetings, the use of cloth face coverings, and reminders to stop talking, yelling, singing, etc. while moving along hallways.

Recess/yards and Play Spaces

- Maintain cohorts or small groups; discourage mixing of large groups of students.
- Stagger playground use rather than allowing multiple classes to play together.
- Limit activities where multiple classes interact.
- Wash hands or use hand sanitizer before and after recess.
- Maintain at least 6 feet of space from other children as much as possible.
 - When possible, build in visual cues that demonstrate physical spacing.
- Evaluate feasibility of opening play structures with the need to disinfect, as well as the risks of disinfecting high touch areas of the play structure between groups.
- If picnic benches or seating is available outside — provide visual cues to reinforce 6-foot spacing.

Large gatherings — i.e., field trips & assemblies

- Cancel activities and events like field trips, Civic Permits, participant assemblies, athletic events, practices, special performances, program-wide meetings, or spirit nights where large groups would gather.
- Transition field trips to free virtual opportunities.
- Change events to a virtual format where appropriate.

PE Classes/Athletics

- Physical education (PE) and intramural/interscholastic athletics should be limited to activities that do not involve physical contact with other students or shared equipment until advised otherwise by state/local public health officials.
- Ensure Personal Hygiene Requirements (Appendix D) in locker rooms, including physical distancing of 6 feet and use of face masks. This will result in fewer students in the locker room at a time.

Use of School Facilities by Outside Organizations

- All school facilities are closed for use by outside organizations until the Amador County Health Department allows mass gatherings to resume.

School Bus/Transportation

All Personal Hygiene Requirements must be followed on the school bus. In order to practice physical distancing on a school bus, the seating capacity must be reduced. This may necessitate the use of a seating chart to designate which seats are available. Consider using a bus aide to ensure appropriate distancing and perform symptom screening per CDE guidance.

- Ensure 6-foot distancing at bus stops and while loading and unloading.
- Educate parents and students on the steps they must take to keep others safe during loading and unloading.

- For active screening, the driver or bus aide must screen each rider per Screening Requirements for Entering School Sites, for symptoms before boarding the bus. If a student's temperature is over 100.4 degrees or the student is symptomatic, the student will not board the bus to school. Parents will be asked to take the student home and follow Stay at Home Requirements.
- All riders must wear a cloth face covering while waiting for the bus and while riding the bus, unless contraindicated.
- Each rider must use hand sanitizer before entering the bus.
- Any bus seating arrangement will meet 6-foot physical distancing objectives. This may be accomplished in one of the following ways:
 - Seat one student to a bench on both sides of the bus, skipping every other row.
 - Seat one student to a bench, alternating rows on each side to create a zigzag pattern on the bus.
 - Students from the same household may sit in the same seat.
 - Mark or block seats that must be left vacant.
- Ensure good ventilation with open/partially open windows.
- Prevent students from walking past each other by taking the following measures:
 - Seat students from the rear of the bus forward in the morning.
 - Board afternoon runs based on the order in which students will be dropped off. Students who get off first should board last and sit in the front.
- Buses should be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected daily and after transporting any individual who is exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19.
- Bus drivers should be provided disinfectant and disposable gloves to support disinfection of frequently touched surfaces during the day.

ACUSD Disinfecting Materials

Due to the unprecedented nature of the Coronavirus (COVID-19), and the awareness surrounding it, the Amador County Unified School District understands the desire to protect students and ourselves from possible infection.

Some items an individual may normally use at home are not allowed for use in schools due to State and Federal policies in place for student health and safety, unless properly trained by the California Department of Pesticide Regulations.

Aerosol spray containers are not allowed on school property for safety reasons.

While the district is making every effort to ensure that supplies are replenished at our school sites, the following is a list of items recommended for individual procurement and use:

Hand Sanitizer

It is recommended that hand sanitizer be at least 60%-65% alcohol based in order to kill the virus and any other bacteria.

Disinfecting Wipes

Disinfecting wipes are effective and allowable, but it is important to read and follow all instructions. If the product is not allowed to dwell on the surface long enough (typically 5 minutes) it will not kill all virus or bacteria. Also the wipe is only effective for use in a small area. For example, a large table or multiple desks would require multiple wipes.

Proper Disinfecting Procedures

Regularly disinfect high-touch areas throughout the day. Frequently touched surfaces in the school include, but are not limited to:

- Door handles
- Light switches
- Sink handles
- Bathroom surfaces
- Tables
- Student Desks
- Chairs

Inventory Controls

- Order supplies for start and plan for inventory management:
 - Cloth face coverings — for students and staff, individuals are encouraged to use their own cloth face covering
 - Disposable masks for care room.
 - Hand sanitizer — in every room, used by every individual entering
 - Spray bottles and disinfectant and paper towels — every room to clean surfaces
 - Gloves, goggles, masks and thermometers for use in care of sick or injured individuals
 - Handwashing stations if insufficient sink access at sites.
- Back stock of PPEs
- Proper ordering procedures from central location/system
- Use of district-approved products only

Communicable Disease Response Protocols

Communicable Disease Response protocols will help the district quickly identify communicable diseases, prevent the spread within the ACUSD community, and reduce potential harm.

The response plan is contingent upon the type of disease and direction from Amador County Public Health.

There are three levels of communicable disease response:

- Incident Management (Case-by-Case or Isolated Incident)
- Outbreak (10% of school population or 25% of classroom with confirmed cases)
- Epidemic/Pandemic (widespread disease over large population or worldwide)

During this COVID-19 pandemic, the district will follow the enhanced preventative measures and heightened surveillance as detailed in this plan and directed by the state and county health departments. Protocols and procedures may change depending on the public health situation and the decisions and direction of public health leadership.

Responsibilities of School Site Staff

1. Sites must prepare for when someone gets sick. Individuals who have symptoms of illness must be immediately separated to prevent possible transmission of disease to others. Individuals who are sick should go home or to a healthcare facility depending on the severity of their symptoms. **Sick students and sick staff must:**
 - a. Be quickly separated from other students/staff until picked up by parent/guardian
 - b. Maintain more than 6 feet of distance from others, preferably in a separate room that is well ventilated
 - c. Wear a disposable mask
 - d. Attending staff must use standard precautions when assisting a sick individual. For suspected COVID-19 this includes, disposable face mask, eye covering/face shield and gloves
 - e. Call parent/guardian for immediate pick up
 - i. If a parent/guardian cannot pick up students, consider procedures for arranging transportation to their home
 - ii. Provide parent/guardian or staff member with Stay at Home/When to Return to School instructions

- f. Disinfect all surfaces after the student/staff leaves and before use by others
 - g. If COVID-19 is suspected, contact your school nurse or Human Resources. Follow Communicable Disease Response Protocols for notifying Human Resources for possible outbreaks of infectious disease
2. Collect and track illness-related absence information at the time of student or staff absence.
 - a. Train attendance staff to support contract tracing as directed by the Amador County Health Department
 - b. School site staff responsible for entering attendance data into Aeries will also list reasons for illness, symptoms, and date of onset in the "Comments" section
3. Follow HIPAA confidentiality laws noting that communicable disease concerns are confidential, and all staff are expected to protect health information.
4. Contact the Human Resources Department
5. Designated Human Resources staff will report all COVID-19 diagnoses, as well as any unusually high number of illness-related student and staff absences, to Amador County Public Health.
6. Require students and staff to remain home per Stay at Home Requirements.
 - a. Stay home if experiencing the following symptoms of illness: fever or chills (100.4 degrees or higher), 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, or diarrhea. * **Subject to change as revised by CDC.**
 - b. Stay home if advised to isolate or quarantine by your doctor or the health department due to COVID-19 precautions. Reasons may include:
 - i. Recent contact with a person with COVID-19
 - ii. Recent diagnosis with COVID-19
 - iii. Recent travel from somewhere outside the U.S.
 - c. Return to school or work when free of symptoms for 72 hours or after 10 days from the start of symptoms, and after the ordered quarantine/isolation period, if applicable.
7. Additional activities may be required as advised by Human Resources following county health department orders.

Responsibilities of the Human Resources Department

1. Human Resources staff will work to verify any reported concern, including speaking directly to families and/or staff when appropriate.
2. Communicable disease concerns are confidential and all staff are expected to protect this health information and mitigate any public concern or fear.

3. Amador County Public Health and ACUSD will coordinate response to COVID-19 cases within the confidentiality framework of HIPPA and FERPA. The Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources and Labor Relations will be the point of contact for all staff related cases and the Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services will be the point of contact for all student related cases.
4. Advise staff or family that Amador County Public Health will provide documentation should a staff member or student be required to quarantine due to COVID-19 exposure.
5. Human Resources staff will inform the District Cabinet of any confirmed cases or confirmed exposures.
6. Human Resources staff will update school site administrators regarding the guidance received from Amador County Public Health.
7. Based on the guidance provided by Amador County Public Health, Human Resources staff will communicate with school site and department staff regarding any next steps or additional resources needed (i.e. maintenance crews, nurses, counselors, psychologists, and safety and security measures).
8. Human Resources staff will advise schools to follow any specific Amador County Public Health guidance on cleaning and disinfecting. CDC's "Reopening Guidance" for cleaning and disinfecting of school buildings includes disinfecting hard, horizontal, and frequently touched surfaces such as tables, desks, chairs, handrails, equipment, and door handles in buildings and rooms with a CDC-approved product rated for SARS-CoV-2, Rhinovirus or Human Coronavirus.
9. Human Resources staff will collaborate with the Superintendent's office and school sites to provide any required family communication. The most accurate and up-to-date medical information will be used for all communication.
10. The established communication channels listed below will be used depending on level of exposure and public health recommendations. Translation of communications will be provided based on the threshold languages of the community.
 - a. Parent Letters (printed, email, SMS, phone)
 - b. School and District Websites
 - c. School and District Social Media
 - d. All call

Notification of a Confirmed Case of COVID-19

- The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has designated COVID-19 as a reportable communicable disease. Therefore, in the event a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, the Amador County Public Health Department will be in contact with the student's parent/guardian or the staff member. Amador County Public Health will issue directions and

recommendations to the patient. Amador County Public Health will also coordinate response to COVID-19 cases with ACUSD within the confidentiality framework of HIPPA and FERPA.

- If a student or staff member notifies school or district staff that they have been diagnosed with COVID-19, staff must immediately contact Human Resources per above.
- Human Resources staff will verify all reported information with the patient and Amador County Public Health, following all guidance or directives provided by Amador County Public Health.
- Amador County Public Health will inform district and site level staff with the guidance provided by the Health Department.

Notification of a Confirmed Exposure of COVID-19

A contact is a person who has been exposed to a person who tested positive for COVID-19. Contacts are notified by the county health department and given instructions for quarantine and return to work/school guidelines. Currently Amador County Public Health defines a contact as someone who has been within 6 feet or less of distance for at least 15 minutes without a face covering.

- The contact must follow public health orders to stay at home for any period directed, which is at least 14 days.
- Note that quarantine guidelines only apply to those who have had recent close contact with an individual infected with COVID-19. Contacts of the quarantined individual do not need to stay home from school.

Classroom, School Site, or District Wide Closures

If a confirmed case of COVID-19 is identified within the district, the Amador County Public Health Department will provide guidance on the required measures. Responses depend on the risk of transmission of COVID-19 in schools. Many factors are considered, including timing of the course of the illness and the number and type of contacts at school. If there is determined to be risk of disease transmission at school, responses may include identifying and quarantining contacts or closing classrooms, school sites, or the district for several days or longer. For this reason, all schools and programs must have contingency plans for potential short term and long term closures.

Levels of exposure and resulting closures / restrictions

- Scenario 1: Symptoms. Send student or staff member home. Not a closure.
- Scenario 2: Close Contact. If family member or close contact tests positive, send report to school administrator, contact public health, send student or staff member home. Not a closure.

- Scenario 3: Student or staff member tests positive. Individual self-reports, family quarantine for at least 14 days. Closure of cohort for 14 days and immediate shift to distance learning.
- Scenario 4: Negative test after 1, 2, or 3 above. Student or staff may return 3 days after symptoms resolve, unless in contact with positive family member. Then 14 day quarantine. Not a closure.
- Entire school closure comes into play if a student or staff member tests positive and there has been significant mixing or contact with other students in other cohorts. This is why keeping cohorts together is critical.

School Site Roles and Responsibilities

These roles and responsibilities must be widely shared with responsible staff and also be included in Staff Handbooks, Student/Parent Handbooks, planners or other communication means.

Administrator Checklist:

- Follow all individual health precautions for students and staff and mitigation standards for ACUSD sites.
- Personal prevention practices, such as physical distancing, hand hygiene, cloth face coverings and cough/sneeze etiquette are important principles to reduce the spread of COVID-19. (CDC)
- Actively model and support all required public health measures. Teach everyone it is OK to correct each other — use “please” and “thank you” to everyone when reminded about public health measures.
- Make changes to site physical spaces and/or implement policies to enforce mitigation measures.
- Provide frequent communication about COVID-19 and cold/flu prevention efforts for students and staff. Use all modalities — email, announcements on speakers, announcements by teachers, signage, and direct instructions at staff meetings.
- Designate staff liaison(s) to be responsible for responding to COVID-19 concerns. Employees should know who they are and how to contact them.
- Ensure posters are placed in impactful areas. Signage should be visible in all bathrooms, classrooms, and public spaces.

Post information on social media regularly. Distribute flyers and posters widely on the following topics:

- Signs and Symptoms of COVID-19

- Physical distancing
- Face covering requirement
- Stay home when sick guidelines
- Cough and sneeze hygiene
- Occupancy limits
- Mental Well-Being and Crisis Support Lines
- Know and ensure that staff follows Communicable Disease Response Protocols for Illness during COVID-19 Pandemic.
- Contact Human Resources immediately if: A student or staff is diagnosed with, is suspected of having, or has been exposed to COVID-19 or other reportable communicable disease
- 25% or more of a classroom, or 10% or more of the school population is sick with similar symptoms
- Ensure teaching staff provides students with distance learning opportunities, full-credit options, and extended time to complete missing assignments due to illness related absences.
- Ensure staff and student attendance is entered in a timely manner on a daily basis. Document and take notice of any patterns of absences with similar symptoms.
- Encourage electronic communication, including submitting and/or sharing electronic forms (i.e. documents requiring signature, homework submission, etc).
- Provide designated space and supervision for sick students until they are able to go home (i.e. Sick Student Area) that is not used by other individuals).
- Provide designated space and supervision for students who need first aid, medication administration, procedures at school, etc. (i.e. Well Student Area).
- Reinforce Stay at Home Requirements by sending home any students or staff who have signs or symptoms of illness.
- Ensure office staff have appropriate resources to support sick students or staff including non-touch thermometer, face covering/mask, water and hand soap, hand sanitizer, facial tissues, gloves, goggles or face shields.
- Follow any guidance provided by Human Resources and Amador County Public Health.
- Ensure all appropriate staff are aware of students with health needs and are familiar with any Emergency Care Plans, including all substitute staff.
- Encourage activities and strategies that promote positive coping for Adults and Children during times of stress.
- Direct any person with heightened concerns to District resources and Amador County Public Health resources. Discuss concerns with School Nurse and/or Student Support and Health Services staff.

Office Staff/Attendance Staff Checklist:

- Follow all individual health precautions for students and staff, and mitigation standards for ACUSD sites..
- Personal prevention practices, such as physical distancing, hand hygiene, cloth face coverings and cough/sneeze etiquette are important principles to reduce the spread of COVID-19. (CDC)
- Actively model and support all required public health measures. Teach everyone it is okay to correct each other — use “please” and “thank you” to everyone when reminded about public health measures.
- Distribute flyers and posters widely on the following topics: physical distancing, face cloth coverings, hand hygiene, cough/cold hygiene, and staying home when sick. Ensure posters are placed near the entrance in every classroom, bathroom and other impactful areas. Post information on social media regularly.
- Encourage electronic communication, including submitting and/or sharing electronic forms (i.e. documents requiring signature).
- Ensure office staff have appropriate resources to support sick students or staff, including face mask/ shield, non-touch thermometer, water and hand soap, facial tissues, gloves, and goggles.
- Reinforce Stay at Home Requirements by sending home any students or staff who are sick.
- Provide a care space for sick students and staff until they are able to go home
- Reinforce health precautions for parents - wear mask, use hand sanitizer, maintain distance.
- Ensure Staff and Student attendance is entered in a timely manner on a daily basis.
- Follow procedures if directed to document student illness symptoms in Aeries.
- Know and communicate to parents the Stay at Home Requirements for sick and exposed students.
- Work with the school nurse to follow protocols that lower the risk of infectious students being on campus.
- Direct health related questions to the school nurse or to their family doctor.
- Ensure all appropriate staff are aware of students with health needs and are familiar with any Emergency Care Plans, including all substitute staff.

Follow Communicable Disease Response Protocols for Illness during COVID-19 Pandemic if the following situations occur - contact the Human Resources Department immediately:

- ❑ Student or staff are diagnosed with, are suspected of having, or have been exposed to COVID-19 or other communicable disease
- ❑ 25% or more of a classroom, or 10% or more of the school, are out sick with similar symptoms

Teacher Checklist:

- Follow all individual health precautions for students and staff, and mitigation standards for ACUSD sites..
- Personal prevention practices, such as physical distancing, hand hygiene, cloth face coverings and cough/sneeze etiquette are important principles to reduce the spread of COVID-19. (CDC)
- Actively model and support all required public health measures. Teach everyone it is okay to correct each other — use “please” and “thank you” to everyone when reminded about public health measures.
- Reinforce and follow health precautions with your students
- Physical distancing at all times — at least 6 feet.
- Ensure compliance with maximum occupancy of individuals in each classroom.
- Provide highly visible floor markings in all shared spaces.
- Desks must face in the same direction.
- Establish regular times for hand washing/hand sanitizer — including upon entry to school/class, before eating, whenever entering a new room, before going home.
- Proper handwashing is one of the best ways to prevent illness — show videos that teach the proper procedures for handwashing.
- Open doors and windows. Maximize ventilation through the room.
- Have students remain together during recess or mealtimes (cohorting).
- Ensure distancing protocols during meals — use alternative locations such as the classroom or outside.
- Close shared spaces in classrooms — remove reading corners or hang-out spaces
- Ensure all students have individual supplies and no sharing of food or items. Store personal items backpack/jacket/lunch bag at the student desk.
- Ensure your classroom has the following district approved supplies — hand sanitizer, facial tissue, garbage cans with liners (changed daily), disinfectant spray and paper towels.
- Disinfect shared equipment such as desks, computers, piano keyboards, lab equipment, wood or auto shop tools, etc. after each student.
- Limit visitors/volunteers to the classroom — permit only those that are essential.
- Send any visibly sick students or students who say they do not feel well to the office: i.e. student has symptoms such as unusual fatigue, coughing, sneezing, runny nose, vomiting, diarrhea, appears to have a fever/flushed cheeks, diaphoretic without exercise, red/crusty eyes.

- ❑ Ensure you are aware of any students in your class with health needs and are familiar with their Emergency Care Plans, including providing this information for substitute teachers.

School Nurse Checklist:

- ❑ Follow all individual health precautions for students and staff, and mitigation standards for ACUSD sites..
- ❑ Personal prevention practices, such as physical distancing, hand hygiene, cloth face coverings and cough/sneeze etiquette are important principles to reduce the spread of COVID-19. (CDC)
- ❑ Actively model, teach, positively reinforce, support, check compliance and re-teach all required public health measures. We must establish “new” norms — understanding it will take time and constant positive reinforcement. Teach everyone it is okay to correct each other — teach “please” and “thank you” to everyone when reminded about public health measures.
- ❑ Keep up to date on public health and district guidance for communicable disease management and support administrators and staff with accurate information about disease risks and precautions.
- ❑ Follow Amador Public Health guidelines to support contact tracing and other public health measures.
- ❑ Provide training and information as needed to site administrators and staff.
- ❑ Work with attendance staff to support Stay at Home Requirements.
- ❑ Provide training, monitoring and reinforcement of district procedures and any new procedures required by the health department as a result of contact tracing.
- ❑ Encourage precautions and measures that reduce risk of disease transmission. Identify risks and work with staff to improve behaviors.
- ❑ Look for visible signs of illness in students or staff - assist to ensure sites have supplies including a thermometer to check temperature.
- ❑ When possible, school nurses, nurse interns, or other community partners will provide lessons on staying healthy and preventing cold/flu (i.e., handwashing and coughing/sneezing etiquette).
- ❑ Reinforce standard wellness protocols by training staff to recognize and send home any students or staff who are sick per Stay at Home Requirements.
- ❑ Follow Communicable Disease Response Protocols for Illness during COVID-19 Pandemic for all communicable disease per Communicable Disease Chart, and contact appropriate Human Resources staff members as required.
- ❑ Encourage electronic communication, including submitting and/or sharing electronic forms (i.e. documents requiring signature, etc).

Bus Drivers/Transportation Checklist:

- Follow all individual health precautions for students and staff, and mitigation standards for ACUSD sites.
- Personal prevention practices, such as physical distancing, hand hygiene, cloth face coverings and cough/sneeze etiquette are important principles to reduce the spread of COVID-19. (CDC)
- Actively model and support all required public health measures. Teach everyone it is okay to correct each other — use “please” and “thank you” to everyone when reminded about public health measures.
- Ensure adequate space for physical distancing at bus stops and school loading and unloading zones
- Students from the same household may sit in the same seat without physical distancing.
- Reinforce with parent and students steps they must take to keep students and staff safe during loading and unloading
- For active screening, the driver or bus aide must screen each rider per Screening Guidelines for Entering School Sites for symptoms before boarding the bus. If the temperature is over 100.4 degrees or symptomatic, the student will not board the bus to school. Parents/guardians will be asked to take the student home and follow Stay at Home Requirements.
- All riders must wear cloth face covering while waiting for the bus and on the bus, unless contraindicated.
- Each rider must use hand sanitizer before entering the bus.
- Bus seating arrangement will meet 6-foot physical distancing objectives. Mark or block seats that must be left vacant
- Ensure good ventilation with open/partially open windows.
- Buses should be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected daily and after transporting any individual who is exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19.

Support Staff Checklist:

- Follow all individual health precautions for students and staff, and mitigation standards for ACUSD sites..
- Personal prevention practices, such as physical distancing, hand hygiene, cloth face coverings and cough/sneeze etiquette are important principles to reduce the spread of COVID-19. (CDC)
- Actively model and support all required public health measures. Teach everyone it is okay to correct each other — use “please” and “thank you” to everyone when reminded about public health measures.
- Look for visible signs of illness in students or staff. Refer visibly sick students and staff to the office or school nurse. Be aware of the district Stay at Home Requirements.
- Encourage activities and strategies that promote positive coping during times of stress for adults and children.
- Encourage electronic communication rather than in person, including submitting and/or sharing electronic forms (i.e. documents requiring signature, etc).
- Provide “tele” supports rather than in-person when feasible.
- Report any concerns about suspected communicable diseases to school site Administrators or school nurse.

Operations/Custodial Staff Checklist:

- Follow all individual health precautions for students and staff, and mitigation standards for ACUSD sites..
- Personal prevention practices, such as physical distancing, hand hygiene, cloth face coverings and cough/sneeze etiquette are important principles to reduce the spread of COVID-19. (CDC)
- Actively model and support all required public health measures. Teach everyone it is OK to correct each other — use “please” and “thank you” to everyone when reminded about public health measures.
- Ensure school has adequate supplies of handwashing materials, facial tissues, district-approved disinfecting cleaner, etc.
- Maintain a stock of cleaning materials and personal protective equipment to ensure readiness - order additional supplies as needed.
- Routine disinfecting: On a daily basis, disinfect all common spaces and classroom areas.
- High-touch areas and areas where sick students or staff were present should be routinely disinfected, following established district guidelines.
- Follow all established district protocols for cleaning and disinfecting.
- Contact Maintenance and Operations Department if a large-scale deep disinfecting/cleaning is required.
- Encourage electronic communication, including submitting and/or sharing electronic forms (i.e. documents requiring signature or orders).

Food Service Staff Checklist:

- Follow all individual health precautions for students and staff, and mitigation standards for ACUSD sites..
- Only grab and go breakfasts and lunches are able to be served.
- Encourage outdoor eating whenever possible.
- Student cohorts should be kept together during the breakfast or lunch period.
- Personal prevention practices, such as physical distancing, hand hygiene, cloth face coverings and cough/sneeze etiquette are important principles to reduce the spread of COVID-19. (CDC)
- Actively model and support all required public health measures. Teach everyone it is OK to correct each other — use “please” and “thank you” to everyone when reminded about public health measures.
- Follow department policies that reduce risk of disease transmission.
- One-way passage ways through meal delivery.
- Increase ventilation for enclosed areas (open doors and windows).
- Follow all Nutrition Services Disinfectant protocols and procedures.
- Ensure your space has the following supplies – hand sanitizer, facial tissue, garbage cans with liners (changed daily), disinfectant wipes or spray, paper towels, gloves and face coverings.

Student Checklist:

- Follow all individual health precautions for students and staff, and mitigation standards for ACUSD sites.
- Personal prevention practices, such as physical distancing, hand hygiene, cloth face coverings and cough/sneeze etiquette are important principles to reduce the spread of COVID-19. (CDC)
- Let your parent/guardian know if you feel sick and remain home if you have a fever or other symptoms.
- If you become ill during the school day go immediately to the school office or health office to be checked. Cloth face coverings must be worn at all times.
- Be kind and understanding with others. Use “please” and “thank you” when talking about or being reminded about public health.
- Let others make their own choices. Do not tease or bully people who look, behave, or believe differently than your family.

Parents/Guardian Checklist:

- Keep your child home per the Stay at Home Requirements.
- Contact your school office or school nurse if there are any questions about the Health Precaution guidelines.
- Call the school office when your child is sick. Report symptoms of illness.
- Call the school office if anyone in your household has been diagnosed with COVID-19 or has had close personal contact with someone with COVID-19.
- While on school grounds, follow all Individual Health Precautions for Students and Staff.
- Personal prevention practices, such as physical distancing, hand hygiene, cloth face coverings and cough/sneeze etiquette must be followed to reduce the spread of COVID-19. (CDC)
- Teach your child the public health guidelines — reinforce and practice these measures when in public.
- Be accepting of other people's choices who may look, behave, or believe differently than your family.

Key Communication Points and Strategy

Messaging Before School Starts

- Student and staff safety is our top priority.
- School will reopen in fall 2020 with modifications to programs and services to protect children and staff from COVID-19 infection. The district will follow the guidance of state and county health departments for implementation of precautions and modifications to school programs.
- The physical and mental health and safety of our community is the responsibility of each of us. Our behaviors affect each other.
- The current CDC guidelines outline five key components: isolation of ill individuals, personal hygiene, physical distancing, use of cloth face coverings, and disinfection of surfaces. In the absence of a vaccine or herd immunity, these actions together significantly reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19.
- Print the Keep Each Other Safe Guidelines in annual parent notification.
- Ask parents/guardians to consider making cloth face coverings for reuse when in public and sending children to school with a cloth face covering. Face coverings will be provided if a child does not have one.
- Prevention of the spread of COVID-19 and the ability of our school to remain open depends on all of us following the Personal Hygiene Guideline and the Stay at Home Requirements. We are all in this together.

Messaging During Opening

- Student and staff safety is our top priority.
- The situation is not stable and ongoing evaluation and modifications will be necessary.
- The district will follow state and county orders. District and school staff are working closely with Amador County Public Health, the California Department of Education, and surrounding districts to monitor the current situation, address concerns, inform and educate students.
- Stringent cleaning protocols are being followed. High-touch areas and areas where sick students or staff were present will be disinfected, following established district guidelines.
- Prevention of the spread of COVID-19 and the ability of our school to remain open depends on all of us following the Personal Hygiene Guideline and the Stay at Home Requirements. We are all in this together.

Ongoing Communications

- We prepare for the cold and flu season every year, by providing information about immunization clinics for eligible families, and conducting awareness campaigns to help prevent the spread of communicable diseases.
- Keep students home from school when sick and seek the advice of a healthcare provider for COVID-19 symptoms.
- Should we receive a concern regarding the exposure or confirmation of a case of COVID-19, ACUSD will respond immediately using our established protocols and guidance provided by Amador County Public Health officials and the California Department of Public Health - School Guidance on COVID-19.
- Prevention of the spread of COVID-19 and the ability of our school to remain open depends on all of us following the Personal Hygiene Guidelines and the Stay at Home Requirements. We are all in this together.

Messaging on Resources/Support

- We know this is an anxious time for our community and our hearts go out to those who are ill, have lost family members, who have lost jobs and are experiencing hardships brought on by the pandemic and mitigation measures.
- Our thoughts are with all of our families and children who are affected.
- Please note that there have been reports of students and others being stigmatized or bullied. We urge our community members to help prevent any discrimination and to respect the privacy of our community members. We encourage everyone in our community to treat each other with compassion, respect, and kindness as we work together to keep our community healthy and physically and emotionally safe.

Communication Strategies for School Site Staff and Administration

- Establish and advertise widely a single source/webpage for up to date information on the planning, pandemic response and expectations for staff, students, and families.
- Utilize Communications to distribute accurate information.
- Training of community liaisons currently at school sites.
- Meetings with Parent groups.
- Announcements during school hours - before school, between classes, before recess and at lunch to reinforce personal hygiene guidelines.
- Consider designating a staff/community liaison or liaisons to be responsible for responding to COVID-19 concerns. Employees should know who they are and how to contact them.
- Use all-calls, all emails, superintendent letters, school site websites, remind texts.
- Use electronic billboards/ marquee boards.
- Use banners, signage through the school to reinforce messaging.
- Translation of communications should be provided based on the threshold languages of the community.