

SAFE RETURN TO IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION
COVID19 Safety Protocols
2021-22

In order to facilitate a more seamless transition back to in-person instruction for all students and to ensure the utmost safety of its students and staff, REACH Leadership STEAM Academy enacted the following protocols to optimize safety thereby fostering a safe, supportive, and healthy learning environment for all of its education partners.

- A. Facilities:** Throughout the pandemic, REACH has placed safety as the utmost priority. Keeping students and staff safe has allowed us to maintain consistent instruction and equitable access to curriculum for all students. Beginning with its facilities, the following protocols have been implemented.
- i. **HVAC:** HVAC system filters are purchased with highest Merv rating possible
 - ii. **Air Filtration:** Indoor spaces, including all classrooms, have a portable air filtration system equipped with a 3 tier filtration system (Pre-filter, Activated Carbon and a HEPA Filter which captures 99.97% at 0.3-micron particles. Air filters have been replaced and will be changed monthly to facilitate proper ventilation.
 - iii. **Sanitization:** Classrooms and other common spaces are cleaned and sanitized daily. Deeper sanitization occurs when a case has been reported. In grades 4-6, where students transition, the room is disinfected between cohorts.
- B. Students:** The following safety measures are implemented to limit the spread of COVID amongst students to the greatest extent possible.
- i. **Masking:** Until March 14, 2022 every student and staff member complied with mask mandates. In accordance with state guidelines, masks became optional after 3/14/22.
 - ii. **Cohorting and Distancing:** Students remained socially distanced during the mask mandate as well, as they stayed within their classroom cohort and did not mingle indoors with other classes. Seating arrangements remained static for departmentalized classes to reduce potential exposure due to transitioning between classes (from homeroom to other content area classes).
 - iii. **Handwashing:** Students were given monitored breaks to regularly wash their hands at outdoor hand washing stations.
 - iv. **Campus travel (egress and ingress):** When traveling on campus, students follow the egress and ingress lines to maintain distance between students, as well as to ensure that students move about the school in a safe and orderly manner.



- v. **Materials:** Whenever possible, students have been provided with individual materials and manipulatives to prevent the spread of germs. Materials that must be shared are regularly sanitized.
- vi. **Meals:** 100% federally funded school wide breakfast and lunch

C. Teachers and Staff: The following protocols were implemented to ensure optimal safety for our staff until such a time when COVID19 cases diminished to the level where such protocols were no longer deemed necessary by state and local health authorities.

- i. **Masking:** Until March 14, 2022, every student and staff member complied with mask mandates. In accordance with state guidelines, masks became optional after 3/14/22.
- ii. **Vaccination and Testing:** All staff are required to provide proof of vaccination against COVID-19 or provide weekly negative tests until further notice.
- iii. **Weekly COVID questionnaire:** Staff and students were required to complete a weekly wellness check every Sunday, which included a standard COVID questionnaire regarding exposure and symptoms, from January. 23, 2022 to March 19, 2022 when COVID protocols were lessened at both the state and local levels.

D. Quarantine Procedures: Working together with local health authorities, our school nurse and administrative team have implemented the following protocols to prevent the spread of COVID on campus.

- i. **Parent Contact:** If a student or staff member tests positive and has come in contact with other students, we will inform parents of any affected students as soon as we are notified about a positive case. Because students are cohorted, students who were in close contact with that student or staff based on current guidance will be notified and have to follow quarantine procedures.
- ii. **Quarantine:**
 1. A student will quarantine for 10 days if they have been exposed. The 10 day period starts from the last time you had contact with the individual who tested positive.
 2. **Quarantine at home:** Any student who tests positive must quarantine at home. Additionally, students will be asked to quarantine at home if they were exposed to COVID outside of school. If they were exposed at school, they have an option to quarantine at home or a modified quarantine.
 3. **Modified Quarantine:** Student may still attend school, while adhere to the following guidelines:



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- a. Wear a mask at all times- even outdoors, during recess and PE
 - b. Sit at a socially distanced lunch table for meal times when their mask must be removed.
 - c. Submit two negative tests a week, until the 10 day period is over
 4. Staff:
 - a. Staff who are exposed but fully vaccinated do not need to quarantine; whereas, unvaccinated staff will have to follow the 10 day quarantine period of exposed
 - iii. Symptoms
 1. If a student has two or more symptoms, a test will be required for their return.
 2. If a student has allergies, or other lingering symptoms, they will be (looked at?) by the school nurse rather than sent home.
 3. Any staff member experiencing symptoms will be sent home and return upon a negative COVID test.
- E. **Instruction:** During the 2021-2022 school year, REACH Leadership STEAM Academy has returned to 100% full time in-person instruction. While REACH spent two weeks on distance learning due to staff overexposure during the holiday break, the instructional team jumped in on day one with Zoom lessons and work packets were sent home.

Mitigate Learning Loss

- i. **Intervention:** Students performing below basic on standardized benchmarks receive skill specific small group instruction. Their progress is monitored through classroom and standardized assessments.
- ii. **English Learner Curriculum:** All emerging bilingual students in grades 1-6 have access to specialized instruction 30 min three times per week via Lexia English software which implements use of avatar and artificial intelligence to teach concepts of Speaking, Listening, Reading and Writing. In addition, these students meet in small group with a credentialed teacher to practice speaking and listening skills verbally. Transitional kindergarteners and kindergarteners meet in small groups for 30 minutes four times per week to develop speaking, listening, reading and writing skills.
- iii. **Read 180/ System 44:** Students in grades 4-6 who demonstrate below basic skills in ELA, specifically in reading comprehension, are provided with a powerful blended learning intervention making use of interactive software, small group instruction and a leveled reader library.
- iv. **Independent Study/Quarantine:** Students who missed school due to COVID quarantines were provided independent studies to ensure



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equitable access to curriculum and instruction during their time away from campus.

- v. **Social Emotional Learning:** The Director of Student Support Services and the Student Supports Services (SSS) Coordinator, which falls under REACH's Special Education Department, have participated in social and emotional well-being webinars that address the stress and trauma that families experienced under the pandemic. For the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 school year, the SSS team unveiled a campus-wide Mental Health campaign by using the Bounce Back curriculum, aimed at reducing the stress or anxiety children feel about being exposed to stressful or traumatic events. The program begins with a UCLA Trauma screener and interventions are provided to students presenting with trauma symptoms for 6 weeks.