



## OLIVE GROVE CHARTER SCHOOLS, INC.

District Office

2353 S. Broadway, Second Floor, Santa Maria, CA 93454

Phone: 805.623.1111. Fax: 805.623.1175 [www.olivegrovecharter.org](http://www.olivegrovecharter.org)

### Safe Return to In-Person Instruction Plan

Olive Grove Charter School (OGCS) is a nonclassroom-based, independent study school in which students participate in the majority of their instruction and complete their coursework from home. The Charter School operates a learning center where students may meet with their supervising teacher as well as access classes and supplemental services. The learning center remained closed for the majority of school year 2020-2021, with a very limited reopening for the last month of school. OGCS intends to fully reopen its learning center to provide full access to a variety of in-person services to its students. OGCS will maintain a fully virtual option for any student who is hesitant to return in person.

To date, OGCS has adopted a COVID-19 Prevention Program and we completed the COVID-19 School Guidance Checklist. Both are posted to our website at <https://olivegrovecharter.org/covid-19-safety-plan-csp/>.

Current public health conditions are concerning, given the once again rising case numbers in Santa Barbara County, the increased incidence of the Delta variant, and increasing infections of vaccinated individuals. At the time of this writing, Santa Barbara County has not reinstated an indoor mask mandate, though Los Angeles County has implemented such a mandate.

The health and safety of our community is at the forefront of OGCS's careful planning for and execution of a safe return to in-person services. Our plan to do so is aligned with the recent [guidance](#) issued on July 12 by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH). The guidance emphasizes the importance of widespread vaccination of all eligible members of the community, masking, and the availability of testing.

To that end, OGCS will implement the following measures in order to ensure a safe return to in-person services.

#### Universal and correct wearing of masks

- Per requirements issued by CDPH, all individuals, staff, other adults, and students, will be required to wear masks indoors.
- Persons exempted from wearing a face covering due to a medical condition, must wear a non-restrictive alternative, such as a face shield with a drape on the bottom edge, as long as their condition permits it.
- Masks will be provided to students/staff members who inadvertently fail to bring a face covering to the learning center.
- Students who will not or cannot wear a mask will be excluded from entering the learning center. These individuals will be provided virtual supports comparable to those available in the learning center.

#### Physical distancing

- Despite the fact that recent evidence indicates that in-person instruction can occur safely without minimum physical distancing requirements when other mitigation strategies (e.g., masking) are implemented, OGCS will implement minimal physical distancing measures, in order to prevent overcrowding of our indoor spaces.
- In order to be able to control the number of people present in the learning centers at any given time, students will be required to sign up to attend. Staff will facilitate the sign-up process.
- Students and staff will maintain a distance of approximately three (3) feet from one another, when physically possible.
- Chairs will be spaced at least 3 feet apart in order to accommodate physical distancing.
- The number of individuals present in the learning center at any given time will be limited to allow greater air flow and increased ability to physically distance.
- Due to the close proximity of individuals riding in a vehicle and the nature of the enclosed space, at this time school vehicles will not be used to transport students. The use of school vehicles and associated protocols will be evaluated closer to or just after the start of the school year.

### **Handwashing and respiratory etiquette**

- Sinks and soap are readily available and hand sanitizer stations are set up throughout the learning center.
- Staff will reinforce hand washing/sanitizing routines through modeling behaviors and tutorials.
- Staff will teach and reinforce respiratory etiquette including avoiding contact with one's eyes, nose, and mouth, and covering coughs and sneezes.
- To assist with hand washing/sanitizing routines and respiratory etiquette, signs are posted at entry and throughout the learning center.

### **Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities**

- Daily cleaning of surfaces using disinfectants will occur whenever individuals are present in the learning center.
- If there was a sick person with COVID-19 in the learning center within the last 24 hours, the spaces occupied by that person will be specifically cleaned and disinfected.

### **Contact tracing, isolation and quarantine**

#### *Contact tracing*

- In an effort to assist with contract tracing should the need arise, all students and visitors must sign in and sign out when accessing the learning center.
- Record will be kept of staff members onsite at any given time.
- OGCS will report COVID-19 cases to the local public health department.
- A designated COVID-19 liaison will assist the local health department with contact tracing and investigation.

#### *Isolation and quarantine*

- Pre-Screening for symptoms at home
  - Students and staff will be instructed to complete a [home-based screening](#) process prior to leaving their home to go to the learning center
  - Students, teachers, and staff who have symptoms of infectious illness, such as [influenza](#) (flu) or [COVID-19](#), should stay home and be referred to their healthcare provider for testing and care.
- Staff members and students with symptoms of COVID-19 infection will not to be allowed to return to the learning center until they have met CDPH criteria to return to school for those with symptoms:
  - At least 24 hours have passed since resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications; and
  - Other symptoms have improved; and
  - They have a negative test for SARS-CoV-2, OR a healthcare provider has provided documentation that the symptoms are typical of their underlying chronic condition (e.g., allergies or asthma) OR a healthcare provider has confirmed an alternative named diagnosis (e.g., Streptococcal pharyngitis, Coxsackie virus), OR at least 10 days have passed since symptom onset.
- If a member of the community has close contact with a positive COVID-19 case, or tests positive themselves, we will consider the following scenarios:
  - Scenario 1: Vaccinated Individual(s)
    - If a fully vaccinated individual is in close contact with an individual testing positive for COVID-19, they are not required to isolate unless they are symptomatic.
  - Scenario 2: Unvaccinated individual(s) who were masked at the time of exposure
    - If an unvaccinated individual is in close contact with an individual testing positive for COVID-19 when both parties were wearing a mask, they may undergo a modified 10-day quarantine and may continue to attend the learning center under the following conditions:
      - Individual is asymptomatic;
      - Individual continues to mask appropriately;

- Individual undergoes at least twice weekly testing during the 10-day quarantine; and
- Individual continues to quarantine for all extracurricular activities at school and activities within the community setting.

Scenario 3: Unvaccinated Individual(s) who were not masked at the time of exposure

- For unvaccinated individuals who were not wearing masks or for whom the infected individual was not wearing a mask during the indoor exposure
  - If individual is asymptomatic, they must self quarantine.
    - Quarantine can end after Day 10 from the date of last exposure without testing; OR
    - Quarantine can end after Day 7 if a diagnostic specimen is collected after Day 5 from the date of last exposure and tests negative.
    - After discontinuing quarantine, the individual 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.
- For both vaccinated and unvaccinated persons, follow the CDPH [Isolation Guidance](#) for those diagnosed with COVID-19.

**Diagnostic and screening testing**

- School-based COVID-19 testing will be available for staff and students at the learning center as needed. OGCS will likely adopt the “Helping Keep Kids in School” testing option described in the CDPH’s July 12, 2021 document titled, “[K-12 school-based COVID-19 testing strategies for school year 2021-22](#)”.

**Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities**

These protocols aside, the impact of vaccines on this pandemic cannot be understated. Olive Grove Charter Schools, Inc. reiterates the CDPH statement, “COVID-19 vaccination is strongly recommended for all eligible people in California, including teachers, staff, students, and adults sharing homes with these members of our K-12 communities.” Therefore, OGCS encourages our entire professional and student community to embrace the goal of 100% COVID-19 vaccination status among eligible members of the community.

**Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies**

- OGCS will provide accommodations, modifications, and assistance for students, teachers, and staff with disabilities and other health care needs when implementing COVID-19 safety protocols, including:
  - Working with families to better understand the individual needs of students with disabilities;
  - Remaining accessible for students with disabilities; ensuring access to services for students with disabilities;
  - Adjusting strategies as needed;
  - A virtual option will remain available.

**Coordination with State and local health officials**

- Coordination with State and local health officials is of paramount importance in the safe return to in-person services.
- OGCS is in regular communication with the Santa Barbara County Education Office, and leadership stays current with local, county, State, and Federal guidance.
- Where guidance conflicts, OGCS will align with the guidance of the County’s public health department, or in the absence of such guidance, we will align with CDPH guidance.