



## Safe Return to In-Person Instruction Plan

The Olive Grove Charter Schools (OGCS) are nonclassroom-based, independent study schools in which students participate in most of their instruction and complete their coursework from home. The Charter School operates five learning centers where students may meet with their supervising teacher as well as access classes and supplemental services. OGCS fully reopened its learning centers for school year 201-2022 to provide full access to a variety of in-person services to its students. OGCS maintains virtual learning options 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/>.

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. This plan to do so is aligned with the most recent [guidance](#) updated on June 30, 2022 by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH). The guidance emphasizes the importance of mitigation strategies, such as widespread vaccination of all eligible members of the community, access to a robust COVID-19 testing program, managing students exposed to and diagnosed with COVID-19, and hygiene and cleanliness standards.

To that end, OGCS will implement the following measures to ensure a safe return to in-person services. This plan will be modified or adjusted as necessary to adapt to evolving public health conditions and corresponding State and County guidance and requirements. This plan may be superseded by such guidance/requirements, until the time the plan itself can be reviewed and modified.

### Masking

- At this time, masking is not required.
- No person will be prevented from wearing a mask as a condition of entry to the learning center.
- Masks will be provided to students/staff members who inadvertently fail to bring a face covering to the learning center and desire to use one.
- Unless otherwise directed by the local health department, students and staff will follow [CDPH masking guidance for the general public](#), as well as masking guidance for specific situations such as when having symptoms, being infected, or exposed.

### 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

- In general, routine cleaning is enough to sufficiently remove the virus that causes COVID-19 from surfaces.

### Managing Individuals with Symptoms

- Any student who develops new, unexplained symptoms should not return to the learning center until it is clear that symptoms are mild and improving or are due to a non-infectious cause (e.g., allergies).
  - This includes waiting until 24 hours have passed since resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications.
- If [symptoms](#) are concerning for COVID-19, it is strongly recommended that students wear a mask and get tested immediately.
  - Students should also follow [CDPH recommendations](#) for retesting and/or isolating if results are positive.

### **Managing Students Diagnosed with COVID-19**

- Students diagnosed with COVID-19 should stay home for at least 5 days and wear a well-fitting mask around others for a total of 10 days, especially in indoor settings.

### **Managing Students Exposed to COVID-19**

- Families must notify the school if their child has COVID-19 and was present at an OGCS learning center during their infectious period.
- The school will, in turn, notify any individuals who spent more than a cumulative total of 15 minutes (within a 24-hour time period) in a shared indoor airspace (e.g., classroom) with someone with COVID-19 during their infectious period.
- All students with known exposure to persons with COVID-19 should follow recommendations listed in CDPH's guidance for the general public, including:
  - Test within 3-5 days after last exposure.
  - Per CDPH masking guidance, close contacts should wear a well-fitting mask around others for a total of 10 days, especially in indoor settings and when near those at higher risk for severe COVID-19 disease.
  - Strongly encouraged to get vaccinated or boosted.
  - If symptoms develop, test and stay home, AND
  - If test result is positive, follow isolation recommendations.
- If they remain without symptoms, students may continue to take part in all aspects of K–12 schooling including sports and extracurricular activities. As recommended, they should wear a well-fitting mask around others for a total of 10 days and get tested 3–5 days after last exposure.

### **COVID-19 testing**

- OGCS will provide at-home COVID-19 test kits to students and staff while supplies last.
- OGCS has partnered with Aptitude Clinical Diagnostics to provide convenient testing in the community to students and staff with no out of pocket cost.

### **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.

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