



Our Mission Statement

The Waldorf School of San Diego's mission is to awaken each student's capacity for love of learning, for independent thinking, and for heartfelt service to the world.

Our Guiding Principles are:

- An understanding of human development, as elaborated by Rudolf Steiner, being the foundation of our work. The pace, priorities, and practices of our full curriculum, from early childhood through High School, grow out of this foundation.
- We strive to have our student population reflect the cultural diversity of the greater San Diego community.
- We are a community of students, parents, and teachers committed to the principles of social inclusion and environmental stewardship.

"Our highest endeavor must be to develop free human beings, who are able of themselves to impart purpose and meaning to their lives."

Rudolf Steiner

A. Overview of WSSD Approach

WSSD seeks to create a community of care by utilizing all of the tools available for keeping our community safe. This includes masking indoors, outdoor classrooms, testing, vaccination, and physical distancing. It is our desire to allow our children to receive a full Waldorf education while keeping our community safe.

We expect to continue to receive ongoing guidance from the State of California, the CDC, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the State Child Care Licensing Board.

We have detailed our Curriculum and Instruction Plan in the partner document to this plan and refer you there to find all information about the way in which we will deliver the education to the children.

Finally, as you read through these plans please remember that they are a work in progress. As we receive community input, get more guidance from the State of California, watch what is happening around us in August, and continue to work with these challenges, our understanding and planning will develop. The work to develop these plans is being carried out by WSSD Faculty and Staff and supported by the COVID-19 Task Force. Members of the COVID-19 Task Force are:

Shaun Berger: *Parent, Pediatric Physician*

Heather Corliss: *Parent, Epidemiologist*

Kamalika Chaudhuri: *Parent, Data Scientist*

Adriana Villagrana: *Parent*

Ali Goddard: *Parent*

Michael Campbell: *Parent*

Grant McGann: *Parent, Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon*

Sarah Kleven: *Parent*

Kelli Gray-Meisner: *Parent, RDN, IFMCP*

Melda Baysal Walsh: *Parent, Associate Marriage and Family Therapist; Ph.D. Arts & Humanities*

Elyse Stussi: *Grade 2 Teacher, Grades Chair*

Amelia Vance: *High School Teacher*

Sheila Salmeron: *Early Childhood Teacher*

Peter Barber: *Facilities Manager*
 Rachel Davis: *Administrator, Parent*

B. General School-Wide Health and Safety Plans

We have reviewed the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) “COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools in California, 2021-22 School Year” (linked below) and we will meet their recommendations in the way best suited to teaching our students. We are committed to teaching a full day, five day a week schedule unless unable to by state or county order. Keeping much of our learning outside will allow us to stay open, limit us from quarantining and allow students to have mask breaks throughout the day.

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/K-12-Guidance-2021-22-School-Year.aspx>

This school year some teaching may take place indoors with universal masking inside. We will also be following all these standards:

California School Vaccine Mandate - School Faculty, Staff, Administration and Volunteers

In compliance with the CDPH “Vaccine Verification for Workers in Schools” Order (linked below), all WSSD faculty, staff, administrative employees, and volunteers must be vaccinated or submit weekly testing results. WSSD will comply by 1) verifying and tracking the vaccine status of all workers; and 2) tracking weekly test results for all workers who are not fully vaccinated.

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Order-of-the-State-Public-Health-Officer-Vaccine-Verification-for-Workers-in-Schools.aspx>

Monitoring of COVID-19 Symptoms in Students, Families, and Staff

We encourage the community to either test or voluntarily self-quarantine 14 days prior to the start of school to help reduce community risk and increase the ability to remain open.

- Students will go through a health check upon arrival that will include a symptom checklist.
- Faculty and Staff will go through a health check upon arrival that will include a symptom checklist.
- Families will be asked to report possible illness if anyone in their household shows symptoms or has tested positive for COVID-19.
- Students and staff with symptoms of COVID will be required to quarantine at home. Siblings and household contacts of an affected student or staff member will also be required to quarantine at home.
- The time the symptomatic student or staff will be placed on stay-at-home quarantine, the criteria to return, class shutdown, and school shutdown will be done in accordance with SD Public Health Department recommendations at that time.
- Parents should have plans in place for possible quarantines.
- Classwork plans while at home quarantine will be coordinated with the school.
- We will limit unnecessary visitors to both campuses to minimize exposure.

Students and School Staff who show symptoms of COVID-19

WSSD is using the San Diego County Office of Education’s Decision Tree (Appendix A to this Document;

linked below) to determine when symptomatic children and adults need to stay home and when they can return to school. It provides a more expedient return to school with a negative COVID test so long as the individual's symptoms have improved and the individual has been fever-free for 24 hours. If you have questions, please contact the school for assistance.

<https://covid-19.sdcoe.net/Portals/covid-19/Documents/Health%20Practices/COVID-19-Decision-Tree.pdf?updated=081221>

Asymptomatic Students and School Staff who have a COVID-19 positive close contact

WSSD is using the CDPH Public Health Guidance quarantine recommendations for asymptomatic students and adults. The SDCOE Decision Tree (Appendix A; linked above) identifies when asymptomatic students and staff need to stay home and when they can return to school. It provides a more expedient return to school with required testing. If you have questions, please contact the school for assistance.

Students who show symptoms while at school

Teachers will monitor students for symptoms of COVID-19 throughout the day. If a student displays COVID-19 symptoms, the teacher will call the Front Office and a parent/guardian will be called to pick up the student. A designated COVID-19 Monitor will come to the classroom and escort the student to a comfortable but isolated place where they will be cared for by the Monitor while waiting for a parent to pick them up. Students will be asked to wear a mask while waiting for parents unless they are nauseous or have vomited.

Returning to School after travel

Travel, especially air travel, increases your chance of getting and spreading COVID-19. We ask that all families follow current CDC guidance regarding quarantine and testing after any member of the household travels by air.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/travel-during-covid19.html>

Face Coverings

All Students and Staff:

In compliance with the CDPH Public Health Guidance cited above, the school will require masks for Nursery-12th grade students and staff for all indoor activities. We will begin the school year requiring masks outdoors, except during class time when distanced and with the teacher's discretion. We will continue to evaluate the need for masks as we see a reduction in the number of COVID cases.

Face coverings reduce the risk of transmission to others:

Evidence has shown that masks reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19 by as much as 6 times. Combined with physical distancing indoors, masks reduce our risk of spreading the virus even more **and help us avoid shutdowns.**

Our highest goals are to protect each other in our community, especially those that have higher risk medical conditions themselves or at home, and to prevent closures to preserve an in-person Waldorf education.

Proper Face Coverings

PROPER MASK TYPES: Students will be required to wear double or triple-layered 100% cotton (not jersey) masks or surgical masks. Neither students nor staff are permitted to wear masks that are a gaiter style or have an exhalation valve or vent.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/about-face-coverings.html>

Physical Distancing Measures

- When eating, we will space staff and students 6 feet apart.
- Given what is known about transmission dynamics, adult staff within schools will also attempt to maintain a distance of 6 feet from other persons as much as possible, particularly around other adult staff
- Meetings among staff members will be physically distanced, outdoors, or virtual when possible.
- Pre-school, Kindergarten, and Grades will continue to have staggered drop-offs and pickups. Further staggering may take place. Siblings of younger children may be dropped off with their younger siblings.

Common spaces and Hallways

- We have installed additional hand washing and sanitizing stations as well as temporary bathrooms.
- Students will wear face coverings in all indoor spaces, and outdoor common spaces, such as parking lots, at all times.

Cohort classes

We will limit the cross-over of students in indoor spaces. Limited cohort interaction will be permitted up to two cohorts at a time in Grades 1-5 and three cohorts at a time in Middle School (Grades 6-8). This interaction will primarily occur outside. High School students will be sectioned off by grade and electives with mixed groups will be held outdoors allowing for appropriate distancing. We will also be utilizing outdoor space for all classes as much as possible. High school students will be permitted to come into the lower school building (wearing masks) for use of the auditorium, but will not mix with grade school cohorts.

Where feasible, keep students in the classroom and rotate teachers instead. Teachers will maintain physical distancing when possible and when not disruptive to the educational process.

Use of outdoor space

Transmission in the open air has been shown to be much less likely.

- We will be utilizing outdoor space for all classes as much as possible.

- Teachers will maximize time spent outdoors and distanced to limit the length of time masks need to be worn.
- Activities that are considered high risk such as singing, exercising, music classes, and eating will be done outside and with physical distancing whenever possible.
- Separate play areas will be designated for cohorts with minimal interaction (up to two in Grades 1-5 and three in Middle School Grades 6-8)

Limit Sharing

The following practices will be implemented to limit sharing of materials between students.

- Each student's belongings will be kept separate.
- Student belongings will be taken home each day to be cleaned.
- Students will be provided adequate supplies to minimize sharing of high-touch materials (art supplies, equipment, etc.) to the extent practicable.
- Sharing clothing, toys, books and other games or learning aids will be limited as much as practicable.

Eating

All snacks and eating will occur outside with physical distancing.

In extreme weather conditions, Early Childhood students may eat inside, spaced throughout the classroom.

Building Safety

The air handling system will be thoroughly inspected, and filters replaced, and assurances will be given that fresh air is flowing in the building. Whenever feasible, windows and doors will remain open to increase air flow. We will continue to ensure that each classroom is well ventilated and has safe water systems. The water fountains will be turned off in the buildings, although the water bottle fillers will stay in operation.

WSSD has a covered outdoor classroom for each class. EC teachers have discretion to do activities indoors with masks on. Grades teachers have discretion to teach certain portions of their lessons indoors in compliance with the mask policy. High school teachers have discretion to teach classes indoors in compliance with the mask policy.

Parents, Volunteers, and Visitors on Campus

- Volunteers will be permitted on campus to support classroom and school activities. They will be required to comply with the California Public Health vaccine verification and weekly testing requirements. Masks will be required.
- Parents and visitors will be permitted on campus outside of school hours for class activities, meetings, events, and performances. These events will be held outdoors and masks will be required.

Hand Hygiene

Students, Faculty, and Staff will be washing hands with soap and water, and/or using hand sanitizer throughout the day. We will require hand washing and/or sanitizing before and after mealtime and before

and after entering or exiting the classroom. Hand sanitizing stations will be placed throughout both campuses to ensure there is enough supply to meet this requirement.

We will ensure that each classroom is fully stocked with tissues and paper towels.

Cleaning and Disinfecting

The school buildings will be thoroughly sanitized prior to re-opening and cleaned frequently using the recommended cleaning protocols during the time of COVID-19. All high-touch surfaces and bathrooms will be cleaned frequently, and any shared spaces will be cleaned between groups of students. Common areas (sinks, bathrooms, doorknobs, table-tops, shared items, etc.) will be cleaned and sanitized frequently.

Every effort will be made to use the most ecologically and child-friendly cleaning products that comply with state health and safety guidelines. Due to potential supply issues, products may vary.

Training of Faculty and Staff and Educating Families

We will train all staff and provide educational materials to families in the following safety actions:

- Enhanced sanitation practices
- Physical distancing guidelines and their importance
- Proper use, removal, and washing of face coverings
- Screening practices
- How COVID-19 is spread
- COVID-19 specific symptom identification
- Preventing the spread of COVID-19 if you are sick, including the importance of not coming to work if staff members have symptoms, or if they or someone they live with has been diagnosed with COVID-19.
- For workers, COVID-19 specific symptom identification and when to seek medical attention
- The employer's plan and procedures to follow when children or adults become sick at school.
- The employer's plan and procedures to protect workers from COVID-19 illness

Documenting/ Tracking

We will document/track incidents of possible exposure and notify local health officials, staff, and families immediately of any exposure to a positive case of COVID-19 at school while maintaining confidentiality, as required under FERPA and state law related to the privacy of educational records.

- Possible incidents of exposure documented in the health screening questions will be referred to the COVID Working Group and the Health Department liaison
- Incidents of symptoms identified while attending school will be documented and referred to the COVID Working Group and the Health Department liaison.

C. Lower School Campus – Specific Health-Related Plans

Cleaning and Disinfecting Play Areas

Playground equipment will be cleaned regularly. Each lower grade cohort will have a designated play area for recess and outdoor time. Students will wash hands or use hand sanitizer upon arrival at school, between playtimes, and before and after mealtimes.

Bathrooms

Touch surfaces of all bathrooms will be cleaned regularly.

Students will be asked to wash their hands after using the bathroom before returning to any activities.

Face Coverings

A conscientious effort will be made in all lesson planning to limit the length of time students will be required to wear face coverings. Teachers will plan for frequent breaks.

Faculty and staff will wear masks in all indoor, shared, and public spaces.

Early Childhood students will remove masks while napping, in accordance with licensing requirements.

D. High School Campus – Specific Health and Safety Plans**Cleaning and Disinfecting Movement areas**

Movement classes will be outdoors.

Bathrooms

Faculty and staff will be asked to use specific bathrooms.

Touch surfaces of all bathrooms will be cleaned frequently.

Students will be asked to wash their hands after using the bathroom before returning to any activities.

Face Covering

A conscientious effort will be made in all lesson planning to limit the length of time students will be required to wear face coverings. Faculty and staff will wear face coverings in all indoor shared and public spaces.