

Mitigation Plan

The staff of Sonoita Elementary School District are taking the following precautions, to the extent possible, to ensure the health and safety of our staff and students. Modifications may be made to this mitigation plan, as new guidance is received from the CDC, the Arizona Department of Health Services and/or the Santa Cruz County Health Department.

Screening of Students

Home

We ask that parents remain vigilant by screening their children for symptoms of illness each child each day and keeping them at home if they have any symptoms of illness, including:

- fever of 100.4 degrees or higher
- chills
- congestion or runny nose
- shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- cough
- muscle aches
- vomiting
- sore throat
- diarrhea
- headache
- excessive fatigue
- new loss of taste or smell

If any of the above symptoms are present, parents are asked to report the symptoms to the office when reporting the student's absence.

Parents are also required to keep their children at home if the child has recently had close contact with a person who has had or is suspected of having COVID-19. Please contact the Principal or School Nurse to determine when your child is permitted to return to school.

Perfect attendance awards will not be given during the 2021-22 school year.

On Buses

Sonoita Elementary School District sub-contracts with Patagonia Union High School for transportation services. If your child will be riding the bus, he/she may be required to go through a screening process before boarding the bus. The screening process may include a check for visible signs of illness and the student's temperature taken with a non-contact thermometer.

Students with a fever at or above 100.4 degrees and/or visible symptoms of illness will not be allowed to board the bus. Therefore, it is imperative that parents wait at the bus stop with their child(ren) until they have been cleared to board the bus.

At this time, masks are required of all students and staff while riding the bus.

Throughout the School Day

While we will no longer be taking students' temperature upon arrival to campus, staff have received training to enable them to visually screen students throughout the day. Students who are observed to have symptoms of illness will be isolated and referred to the school nurse/health aide who will contact the parents and evaluate the need to send the child home.

Screening of Staff

Staff are required to stay at home if he/she has any symptoms of illness, including those listed above for parental screening of students. Those with symptoms of illness and/or a temperature at or above 100.4 will not be allowed to remain on campus.

Staff are also required to stay home if they have had close contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19 or who is suspected of having COVID-19. Staff members are required to consult with the Principal or School Nurse to determine when is safe for them to return to school.

Staff have been advised to consult with their health care provider if they have a medical condition that would place them at greater risk of contracting COVID-19. If such a condition is documented, the ADA process will be followed to ensure his/her safety.

Parents may be contacted for pick-up with the following exceptions

- If the student has a runny nose and the nurse/health aide observes that there are no other symptoms, the nurse/health aide will contact the parent to inquire as to whether the student has had any other symptoms or there have been any COVID-19 exposures in the home. If not, the student may remain at school.
- If the student has health information on file that confirms a diagnosis of asthma or other respiratory condition and the nurse/health aide observes that there are no other symptoms, the nurse/health aide will contact the parent to inquire as to whether the student has had any other symptoms or there have been any COVID-19 exposures in the home. If not, the student may remain at school.

Students who develop COVID-19 symptoms at school

If a student develops COVID-19 symptoms at school, the student will be separated from all other students and staff, except for one staff member to stay with the child. A parent or emergency contact will be immediately notified and asked to pick up the student, and 911 will be called if the student appears to be in medical distress.

Notification of potential COVID-19 exposure

If a student (or a member of a student's household) may have had an exposure to the COVID-19 virus, the school will notify the appropriate parties who may have had contact with the student or their family in the two days prior to symptom onset. The notification will follow FERPA confidentiality requirements.

Notification of confirmed COVID-19 infection

If a student (or a member of a student's household) is confirmed to be infected with the COVID-19 virus, the school will notify the appropriate parties who may have had contact with the student or their family in the two days prior to the positive test result. The notification will follow FERPA confidentiality requirements.

Transportation

If your child will be riding the bus, the Patagonia Union High School District Transportation Department has outlined the following bus procedures, in addition to the screening process outlined earlier:

If students are meeting the bus at a communal area, it would be preferred if they wait in their parents' cars, or social distance while waiting for the bus.

These procedures will be followed while on the bus:

- To the greatest extent possible, given bus capacity, students will be assigned to bus seats with one student per row and, when possible, an empty row between students. Where students can be assigned one per row, they will be assigned to the seat closest to the window.
- Maximum bus ventilation will be always maintained, including open windows (weather permitting). Ventilation will be set to the non-recirculating mode.
- When bus capacity will not allow for one student per row and an empty row between students, students will be required to wear cloth face coverings when on a school bus unless a health condition prevents this.
- Staff will wear cloth face coverings when on a school bus unless a health condition prevents this.
- Buses will load from back to front at bus stops, and unload front to back when at school (to minimize students passing by other students).
- Siblings will need to sit together to allow room on the bus for social distancing.

Questions and/or concerns re: transportation guidelines/expectations can be directed to the Patagonia Union High School Transportation Department (520) 394-3000.

Social Distancing

Classroom

Communal tables have been replaced with individual desks and chairs, to allow for social distancing of 3-6 feet while seated in the classroom. Open-enrollment applications will be declined, if needed, to preserve the ability to provide social distancing in our classrooms.

Cafeteria

The lunch schedule has been adjusted to accommodate smaller groups of students in the cafeteria. Tape will be placed on the floor at six-foot intervals, to maintain social distancing as students are waiting in line for their food or while waiting at the end of the lunch period. During lunch, students will be seated at tables with from three to six feet between each student, and with grade level cohort groups seated together. Supervision will be in place to support social distancing in the cafeteria.

Recess / Physical Education

Students will no longer be separated by cohort group on the playground.

School-wide Events

Students and staff may meet face-to-face for school-wide events, such as The Morning Flag Ceremony. When such events take place indoors, every effort will be made to maintain social distancing of 3 feet or more. In addition, ventilation will be increased for indoor events.

Staff Lounge

The staff lounge will be open for staff, but with limited capacity to provide for social distancing.

Physical Barriers

Face Masks

- Face masks are optional for students and staff, while on campus.
- Parents may contact the school office to notify staff of their preference re: face masks.
- Disposable face coverings will be provided for all students and staff, as needed.
- Parents who would like to have their child(ren) wear a face covering during the school day are responsible for ensuring that their child(ren) bring a clean face covering with them to school each day.
- Staff will teach and reinforce proper use, removal, and storage of face coverings.
- Face masks will not be used for anyone who is having trouble breathing, is unable to remove the face covering without assistance, or who has a medical condition which would prevent the use of a mask.

Face Shields

- Clear face shields may be worn, in lieu of a face mask, for instructional purposes, when the ability to see the face is necessary (i.e., speech therapy, phonics instruction, etc.) or when wearing a face mask is medically prohibited.
- The district will provide face shields for students and staff, as needed.

Plexiglass Barriers

- Tables with plexiglass barriers are available for teacher-led small group work in elementary classrooms, when social distancing cannot be maintained.
- Plexiglass barriers have also been installed between bathroom sinks and urinals.

Hygiene

- All students will be instructed and encouraged to practice proper hygiene, including:
- Frequent handwashing with soap and water.
- Use of hand sanitizer when soap and water are not available.
- Covering coughs and sneezes with a tissue, disposing of the tissue, and washing hands immediately after use.
- Properly wearing, removing, and storing face coverings.
- Avoiding touching their faces.

Signs will be posted to reinforce the hygiene practices outlined above.

Soap dispensers have been installed by every sink. In addition, hand sanitizer dispensers have been installed in every classroom. The dispensers will be refilled daily and as needed throughout the day.

Tissue will be available in every classroom.

Donated cloth face coverings will be distributed to students, upon request. Containers for storing face masks will be provided by the classroom teacher upon request.

Cleaning / Disinfection

Staff will clean/disinfect counters, shelves, desktops, tabletops, chairs, doors, door handles, push bars, light switches, railings, sinks, water bottle refill stations, toilets/urinals, partitions, towel dispensers, soap dispenser and sanitizer dispensers daily. Room sanitizers will be used in each classroom at the end of the school day.

Sanitizer will be available to staff, so that frequently touched items will be cleaned throughout the day.

Ventilation

The ventilation systems have been set to allow for the maximum amount of fresh air circulation, which ranges from 0 to 20% depending on the building. In elementary classrooms, the small windows above each door will be left open when the heating/cooling system are in operation so that fresh air is circulating through the system. One window in each middle school classroom has been replaced with one that slides open. These windows will be opened periodically throughout the day to increase the circulation of fresh air in the classrooms.

Water Systems

The water was tested monthly and has been deemed safe for consumption. Students are encouraged to bring water bottles, which can be refilled in classroom sinks or at our water bottle refill stations.

Visitors / Volunteers

We are happy to be able to welcome visitors to campus for the 2021-22 school year. We ask that visitors refrain from entering campus with any symptoms of illness, or if he/she has been in close contact with someone who tested positive or is suspected of having COVID-19. Nonessential visitors and volunteers will not have access to the campus, until further notice.

COVID-19 Point of Contact

Our school nurse, Annette Koweek will serve as the COVID-19 Point of Contact for Elgin Elementary. In this capacity, she will:

- Oversee the screening of staff, students, and campus visitors for the symptoms of COVID-19.
- Develop protocols to prevent the spread of COVID-19
- Provide training for employees, students, and parents on safety protocols.
- Regularly communicate and monitor developments with local authorities, employees, and families re: cases, exposures, and recommend updates to policies and procedures as needed.
- In conjunction with the Superintendent, consult with local health authorities if there are cases in the facility or an increase in cases in the local area.