

**Clarkdale-Jerome Elementary School District  
Family Communication/Mitigation Plan  
2021-'22 School Year**

**Introduction**

The Clarkdale-Jerome Elementary School District has updated its Family Communication/Mitigation Plan for the 2021-'22 school year. As the pandemic evolves, we will continue to focus on the health and safety of our educational community. We continue to utilize guidance from the AZ Department of Education (ADE) Roadmap for Re-opening Schools, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and state and local public health authorities.

It is important for the district to be flexible and make adjustments accordingly. Families will continue to receive the most up to date information when available. We thank you for your continued support as we enter the upcoming school year.

**In-Person Learning**

As we prepare for the upcoming school year and welcome our students, families and community back to campus, we want everyone to be mindful that our interactions with others should be respectful and courteous. With this in mind we expect our educational community to adhere to the rules and procedures set in place to ensure everyone's health and safety are at the forefront.

We expect our community to openly accept the following overarching guidelines:

- All members of our community and visitors to our campus will follow guidelines regarding washing and disinfecting their hands frequently, and be mindful of physical distancing norms;
- All members of our community and visitors to our campus will respectfully interact with each other in and out of the classroom, and take responsibility for maintaining a healthy environment;
- All parents and bus riders will comply with bus driver requests to follow rules on our buses;
- All members of our community and visitors to our campus will follow self-screening guidelines for symptoms of illness and refrain from coming to campus when symptomatic; and
- All members of our community and visitors to our campus will comply with self-quarantine rules regarding exposure to COVID-19.

**Social and Emotional Support**

At Clarkdale-Jerome School, we have always prioritized the social and emotional development and well-being of our students. We know that our current environment poses new, and challenging, opportunities for us to continue to prioritize these skills in a meaningful way. Our school counseling department plans to continue supporting students, families and faculty/staff in the following ways:

- Individual counseling
- Small group counseling
- Support families with referrals to outside agencies for resource support
- Provide resources for families in talking with their children about COVID-19
- Provide resources to families on social-emotional learning
- Support to families for resources on fostering resilience and addressing trauma
- Assist teachers in assessing student social emotional needs
- Support teachers in trauma sensitive teaching to identify students in need and make appropriate referrals
- Develop and present classroom-based guidance lessons designed for student achievement of skills in career, academic, personal and social development in small and large group settings

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- Offer parent education opportunities as needed

**Health and Safety Protocols**

The following measures will continue as part of the school's general operations when we return for the 2021-'22 school year.

**Physical Distancing**

- Physical Distancing protocols will be used inside classrooms and in common areas to maintain three (3) feet of distance between individuals when possible (i.e. handwashing and waiting for meals in gym).
- In class furniture will be spaced apart with desks facing the same direction.
- Encourage teachers to use technology to facilitate group work and group learning where appropriate for the age, subject, and capabilities of students.
- Continue to reduce, to the greatest extent possible, the number of students on the playground.
- Limit the number of students in the restroom at one time no larger than the number of stalls/urinals in the restroom and display posters reminding students of proper handwashing techniques and physical distancing while in the bathroom.
- We will continue to utilize physical dividers at the front desk area in the administration office and in the cafeteria. We will also continue to utilize our physical distance markers in the gym during breakfast and lunch.

**Hand Washing**

We will continue with handwashing procedures and the use of disinfectant throughout the school day. Handwashing and disinfecting times will include:

- upon arrival into the classroom in the morning
- after being outside for physical activity,
- after using the restroom,
- before and after lunch,
- after sneezing, coughing, or blowing nose.

Quick Steps for Hand Washing:

1. **Wet** your hands with clean, running water (warm or cold), turn off the tap, and apply soap.
2. **Lather** your hands by rubbing them together with the soap. Lather the backs of your hands, between your fingers, and under your nails.
3. **Scrub** your hands for at least 20 seconds.
4. **Rinse** your hands well under clean, running water.
5. **Dry** your hands using a clean towel or air-dry them.

\*\*Hand sanitizer will be available in all classrooms, the administration office and other areas around campus.

Students will be reminded of proper respiratory hygiene, including:

- Avoiding touching the eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Covering the nose and mouth into the elbow (if tissue not available) when sneezing and coughing.
- Discard tissues after use.

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**Daily Health Screenings and Temperature Checks**

*At Home:*

This is the first point on the screening continuum. Families should follow the student screening expectations for the symptoms (listed below) each morning before arriving to school, to self-report symptoms to the school, and keep students at home if any symptoms are present. We highly encourage a home temperature check each day.

People with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported – ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness. Symptoms may appear **2-14 days after exposure to the virus**. People with these symptoms may have COVID-19:

- Fever (100.4 or higher) or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

**Face Coverings**

Face covering/masks will be optional. It is important that parents/families communicate with the homeroom teacher that they would prefer their child wear a face covering at school. Parents also need to communicate with their teacher if they want their child to wear their face covering/mask throughout the school day or only during certain times of the day (i.e. in class only).

We encourage those who are NOT vaccinated to wear a face covering while on campus (as per CDC guidance).

**COVID Testing**

The District will have available rapid test kits and, upon permission granted by the parent/guardian, we can administer a test to students if they are showing COVID-like symptoms. Upon request, we will also make available rapid COVID tests for household members. Families can make arrangements to drive up to the front of the school and wait in their vehicle until the health aide arrives to administer the rapid test.

**Procedures for COVID-19-like Symptoms or a Confirmed Positive Test**

CJSD will work with the Yavapai County Community Health Services department in the event of a positive test and coordinate as appropriate for contact tracing. The district is bound by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPPA) and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and will honor the privacy of impacted individuals. This district is also required to report a confirmed COVID-19 case as per the AZ Dep't. of Health Services Emergency Measure 2020-03.

CJSD faculty and staff should notify the health aide if visible COVID-like symptoms are present in either an employee or student (see below). To the greatest extent possible, confidentiality must be maintained.

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If an **employee** develops a fever, cough or shortness of breath, they will be sent home as per instruction from the Health Aide. If an employee has two or more COVID-like symptoms, the Health Aide will evaluate them on a case-by-case basis. If the employee is able to self-transport, have the employee leave the site.

- If the employee is not able to safely self-transport, contact a family member, emergency contact, or other method of transport to get the employee home or to a healthcare provider.
- If the employee appears to be in medical distress, call 911
- Individuals will be encouraged to follow through with their healthcare provider for further guidance.

If a **student** develops a fever, cough or shortness of breath, they will be sent home as per instruction from the Health Aide. If a student has two or more COVID-like symptoms, the Health Aide will evaluate them on a case-by-case basis. If a student is being escorted to the Health Office, please utilize the following protocols:

- Have this staff member wear a face covering while maintaining a distance of at least 3 feet from the student at all times, unless there is an emergency.
- Contact the health aide for guidance
- Staff member should bring student to the health office for further evaluation
- Student will wear a face mask while in the health office until parent/guardian picks up the child or a negative result comes back after rapid testing.
- Staff member should communicate to the health aide the specific COVID-19 symptoms right away upon bringing student to the health office.
- Health aide will immediately notify parent or emergency contact to pick up the student or call 911 if student appears to be in distress.

**Employees or students who have developed COVID-like symptoms or had a positive COVID-19 test may not return to school and should follow the guidelines outlined in the ADHS "Release from Isolation and Quarantine Guidance" (located at the end of our mitigation plan).**

#### **Quarantining Classes or Closing School Buildings**

The school district is required to report any confirmed cases to the county health department. Having more than one case within a school does not constitute an outbreak. An outbreak is defined as two or more laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases among students or staff with onsets within a 14-day period, who are epidemiologically linked, do not share a household, and were not identified as close contacts of each other in another setting during standard case investigation or contact tracing.

The decision to quarantine a class, close a portion of the school, or close the school/district entirely should be made in close coordination and recommendation by the local health department. When there is a confirmed COVID-19 case in a classroom, our custodial crew will clean and sanitize the classroom prior to opening it back up.

The district will also determine whether other employees or students may have been exposed to the symptomatic individual. Close contact is defined as someone who was within 3 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period starting from 2 days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days prior to test specimen collection) until the time the patient is isolated. For clarity, it is individual exposures added together over a 24-hour period (e.g., three 5-minute exposures for a total of 15 minutes).

- If so, notify those individuals (or in the case of students, their parents/guardians) of the potential exposure
- Do not disclose the name of the individual who is sick

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**Notification Basics**

The school district will notify parents within a grade level when a COVID-19 case has been confirmed. Communication could increase depending upon the circumstances. For example, we will notify the families of an athletic team upon a confirmed case. We will also periodically notify families of the total confirmed cases and quarantining statistics.

**Household Members**

All household members of someone confirmed or suspected to have COVID-19 should not physically attend school and quarantine at home for up to 10 days. Should a student become sick, families should notify the school of any household contact. It is important to note that release from isolation DOES NOT require a doctor's note and DOES NOT require repeat testing or a negative test. Verifying that a student or staff member meets criteria for release from isolation will be up to the health aide and in accordance with the **ADHS "Release from Isolation and Quarantine Guidance."**

**Food Service**

- **COVID Breakfast/Lunch Protocols:** Meal service will be served from the gym during breakfast and lunch, with increased safety measures, including the following:
- Students will be required to wash hands with soap and water before entering the gym for lunch.
- Breakfast – We will continue to provide physical distancing during the breakfast time with the new 3 ft. guidance in mind.
- Lunch – K-2<sup>nd</sup> grade students will eat in the gym during lunch keeping a 3 ft. physical distance to the greatest extent possible. Students in grades ~~6-8~~ 3-8 will be continue to eat outside.
- On occasion, with inclement weather, there may be multiple grade levels eating in the gym during any one time.
- We will continue to utilize the physical distancing markers in the gym.
- Once conditions improve, we will move back into a normal lunch/recess schedule. School/District administration will make that determination based on ADHS metrics.

**Cleaning Protocols**

We will continue daily cleaning and disinfecting of all frequently touched surfaces in work areas (desks, countertops, door handles, sinks, etc.).

**Air Quality**

We will continue to utilize HEPA air filters and purifiers in our classrooms.

**Other Campus Considerations**

**Visitors**

Visitors and volunteers will be restricted from campus (classrooms and during lunch) including, family and guest speakers. Visitors will be required to check-in at our window by the front office. Once conditions have improved, then we will allow visitors and volunteers on campus.

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**School Events/Field Trips**

Field trips are a part of our culture and one element that draws students to our school. As we began last spring, we will continue with field trips and bring back school events as we monitor conditions over the course of the school year

**Extra-curricular Activities and Athletics**

We will continue to rely on guidance from the Arizona Interscholastic Association (AIA) and follow guidelines set forth for safe participation.

**Release from "Isolation and Quarantine" Guidance**

The AZ Department of Health Services released guidance several months ago related to isolation and guidance. This document details steps to be taken if someone has tested positive, negative, is asymptomatic (meaning no symptoms) and symptomatic. We have attached this document as an addendum to this mitigation plan. This will give you guidance as to what you can do if someone in your home has symptoms and we will rely on this to make our decisions. This guidance is included in the next few pages and has been recently updated.

Exceptions to the guidance will be implemented by the District to include:

- A student or staff member does not have to quarantine if they can prove, through test results, they have contracted COVID-19 in the past. Test results could include a positive PCR or antibody test.