

Clarkdale-Jerome Elementary School District
Family Communication/Mitigation Plan
2022-'23 School Year
REVISED 8/4/2022

Introduction

As the pandemic continues to evolve, Clarkdale-Jerome Elementary School District is constantly updating its mitigation plan as required by state and federal governments. We will continue to focus on the health and safety of our educational community and balance this with a strong educational experience.

It is important for the district to be flexible and adjust 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.

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 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
- 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 2022-'23 school year.

Food Service/Cafeteria

- 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 encouraged (or required) to wash hands with soap and water before entering the gym for lunch.
- Depending on the conditions, we may implement a school wide COVID lunch schedule and afternoon recess schedule to keep students in grade level cohorts.

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Hand Washing

We will continue with handwashing procedures and the use of disinfectant throughout the school day. At the teacher's discretion, handwashing and disinfecting could take place during the following times:

- 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.

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 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.

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

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Face Coverings/Mask Policy

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).

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 decide to drive up to the front of the school and wait in their vehicle until the health aide arrives to administer the rapid test. Please call the health office to arrange for a rapid test.

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

CJSD will notify families within a grade level if there are multiple confirmed cases within a particular classroom. If we suspect multiple confirmed cases, additional mitigation strategies may be put into place (i.e. increased physical distancing).

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.

As with all illnesses, if a student or employee develops two or more symptoms during the school day, they will notify the health aide. Our health aide will monitor the student and call parents when necessary. With permission from parents, students can be tested for COVID-19.

If an employee or student tests positive, we will implement isolation guidelines:

- Students/employees will be required to isolate for 5 days (weekend days count towards isolation days). Families should monitor their children and keep them home if symptoms go past the 5-day isolation period.
- At this time, we will **NOT** be conducting contact tracing or quarantining students.

Notification Basics

- We will communicate apparent outbreaks or uncontrolled spread in classrooms, so families can choose the best options for their children. In these cases, we will implement mitigation measures when feasible such as physically distancing.
- 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 with our COVID metrics update located on our website.

Household Members

All household members of someone confirmed or suspected to have COVID-19 should not physically attend school and isolate at home for up to 5 days. Should a student become sick, families should notify the school of any household contact.

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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 allowed on campus and must check-in and receive a “visitor sticker” at the administration office prior to being allowed on campus for any reason. This could change in the future depending on the conditions (if we see a steep increase in confirmed cases, for example).

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.

Future Revisions

The CJSD Governing Board gives authority to the superintendent to make future revisions to the mitigation plan when necessary. We will always notify parents of any changes to our mitigation plan.