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| Bridges Charter School  | Board Policy- Health and Safety Related to COVID-19 | |
| Policy Number: BP 5141.6 | Adopted: 09/14/20 | Revised: 11/09/20 |

It is the policy of Bridges Charter School (“Charter School”) to take all reasonable measures to prevent the spread of the novel coronavirus disease (“COVID-19”) among students and staff. In accordance with this policy, Bridges Charter School encourages students and staff to minimize contact, and temporarily implements health and safety measures for all in-person activities to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, to be used when the Charter School is allowed to resume in-person instruction.

This policy recognizes that these measures are each designed to provide some protection against COVID-19. While there may be times when one measure may not be feasible, implementing the other measures can make up for the absence of another. This Policy includes both mandatory measures (using terms “shall” or “will”) as well as recommended measures intended to guide decisions in light of practical limitations.

This Policy is based on guidance provided by the Centers for Disease Control, the California Department of Education, the California Department of Public Health (“CDPH”), and several county public health officials. The Governor and each county public health official is vested with the authority to impose health and safety standards, which may vary by locality in response to different local conditions. The Charter School will, as necessary, consult with their county health officer, or designated staff, who are best positioned to monitor and provide advice on local conditions to individually determine whether more or less stringent measures are necessary to align with the applicable public health order.

This Policy constitutes the COVID-19 Infection Control Plan for the Charter School worksite. Prior to resuming in-person instruction, the Director shall perform a comprehensive risk assessment of all work areas and work tasks in accordance with guidance from CDPH and this Policy.

Bridges Charter School offers independent study as an alternative to in-person instruction. Either independent study or distance learning will remain available for students who are medically fragile or would be put at risk by in-person instruction once in-person instruction resumes. For example, students with a health condition, students with family members with a health condition, students who cohabit or regularly interact with high-risk individuals, or individuals who are otherwise identified as “at-risk” by their parents or guardians, are students who should avoid in-person activities.

Limited facility access:

All learning and support activities should be conducted online to the greatest extent possible.

When it is necessary to meet in person, Bridges Charter School will limit the number of students and staff allowed to occupy a facility.

Bridges Charter School will exclude from any in-person meeting or activity any employee, student, parent, caregiver or visitor who refuses to take or does not pass a Wellness and Temperature Screening.

Students and employees who are well but who have a household member that has been diagnosed with COVID-19 must remain in home isolation in accordance with CDC-recommended precautions.

Bridges Charter School will minimize close contact between students, staff, families, and the broader community at arrival and departure through one or more of the following methods:

- Designate routes for entry and exit, using as many entrances and exits as can be supervised appropriately to decrease crowding at entry and exit points.
- Instruct drivers to remain in their vehicles, to the extent possible, when dropping off or picking up students. When in-person drop-off or pick-up is needed, only a single parent or caregiver should enter the facility to pick up or drop off the child.
- Require adults entering the facility for in-person pick-up or drop-off to wear a face covering.
- Provide supervision to disperse student gatherings during arrival and departure.

Minimize contact at school between students, staff, families and the community at the beginning and end of in-person activities. Bridges will prioritize minimizing contact between adults at all times.

Stagger arrival and drop off-times and locations as consistently as practicable as to minimize scheduling challenges for families.

Wellness Checks and Temperature Screenings:

Currently, the CDC has identified the following as potential symptoms of COVID-19:

- Fever 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

In-person wellness checks administered under this Policy shall:

Confirm that the subject has not experienced COVID-19 symptoms in the prior 24 hours or potentially been exposed to COVID-19, by soliciting the following information:

Have you had any one or more of these symptoms today or within the past 24 hours?

Are these symptoms new or not explained by another reason?

- Fever 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

Do you live in the same household with, or have you had close contact with, someone who in the past 14 days has been in isolation for COVID-19 or had a test confirming they have the virus?

Close contact means being within six feet of someone, regardless of face covering use, for more than 15 minutes at one time.

Have you traveled outside of the country in the past 14 days?

The screenings will be conducted safely and respectfully, and in a manner that maintains physical distancing within lines, by providing multiple screening entries into the facility if possible.

In-person wellness checks do not need to be performed by a nurse or other health professional.

Home Screening (Students).

Parents shall be instructed to screen their student before leaving the house for any in-person activity. Before leaving the house, a parent should confirm that the student has a temperature below 99.5 degrees Fahrenheit or higher by the no-touch temporal or forehead method or 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher orally and does not exhibit any other COVID-19 symptoms.

Any student who has a fever or other COVID-19 symptoms must stay home from school until they have met CDC criteria to discontinue home isolation. Students may return to school once they are fever-free for 3 days, display an improvement of symptoms, and 10 days have passed since the onset of symptoms. This criteria may be revised by local health orders or directives. .

Home Screening (Staff).

All employees who report to work (in-person) are required to perform a self-administered wellness check for COVID-19 symptoms before leaving home for any in-person activity. Active symptom screening shall be conducted at the worksite if required by local order.

Any employee who has a fever of 99.5 degrees Fahrenheit or higher by the no-touch temporal or forehead method or 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher orally and/or any of the COVID symptoms is directed to remain home, notify his or her supervisor and await instructions.

If symptoms are secondary to an underlying condition (i.e., allergies or asthma) and have not worsened, then the employee can report to work and follow hygiene practices.

Campus Screening (Students). Staff shall actively monitor students for COVID-19 symptoms when the student enters the facility, which shall include a visual wellness check and a temperature check (confirming temperature below 99.5 degrees Fahrenheit) using a no-touch thermometer or below 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit orally, to the extent feasible.

Complete an in-person wellness check for signs and symptoms of COVID-19. If the student answers “no” to all questions and appears well, the student will be allowed to enter the facility or attend the in-person activity.

If the student answers “yes” to any question or upon visual check, and the screener feels the student may be exhibiting signs and symptoms of illness, the student’s temperature should be taken, preferably using a touchless infrared thermometer

If the student’s temperature is 99.5 (by no touch) or 100.4 (orally) or above or they have verbally confirmed symptoms, have them wear a surgical facemask and go to an isolation area; contact the parent to pick up the student.

Campus Screening (Visitors) Each visitor to the school site shall be screened for COVID-19 symptoms before entering the school site. The staff member who greets the visitor at the entrance shall administer an in-person wellness check prior to escorting the visitor to his or her destination. If the visitor answers “no” to all questions, he or she may enter the school. If the visitor answers “yes” to any of the questions, he or she may not enter the school.

To prevent stigma and discrimination in the school setting, student and employee health screenings should be kept as private as possible to maintain the confidentiality of student and employee medical and student records. Race, nationality, country of origin and other protected characteristics should never be used as a basis for particularized health screening.

Consult the local county health order to determine whether temperature checks are required.

To the extent feasible and when required, a no-touch thermometer should be used for temperature checks if possible.

If a thermometer requiring a touch method (under the tongue or arm, forehead, etc.) is the only type available, it should only be used when a fever is suspected and caution is taken by temperature screeners such as gloves, eye protection, and mask.

Thermometers must be properly cleaned and disinfected after each use.

Bridges Charter School will not penalize students and families for missing in-person instruction due to COVID-19.

COVID-19 testing and reporting:

Consistent with CDPH Guidance, the Charter School will implement surveillance testing based on local disease trends periodically, as testing capacity permits and as practicable, and if directed by the local public health order. Examples of recommended frequency include testing all staff over 2 months, where 25% of staff are tested every 2 weeks, or 50% every month to rotate testing of all staff over time.

Students and staff that present to the school health offices with a fever of 99.5 Fahrenheit by the no touch method or 100.4 orally **and** a cough and/or shortness of

breath and/or gastrointestinal illness should be considered a suspect of COVID-19 case and referred for testing.

For those students that do not have a usual source of care, coordinate with the VCPH PHN to arrange for same day testing through the Public Health Lab (PHL) by contacting 805-981-5201

While the individual is awaiting test results, they should isolate at home and be provided with a distance learning option.

Provided that doing so is supported by a local public health order, the Charter School expects students and staff to get tested as soon as possible after developing one or more COVID-19 symptoms or if one or more household members or close contacts tested positive for COVID-19.

In the event of a positive test result:

Bridges Charter School requires that parents/guardians and staff notify school administration immediately if the student or staff tested positive for COVID-19 or if one of their household members or non-household close contacts tested positive for COVID-19.

Upon receiving notification that staff or a student has tested positive for COVID-19 or has been in close contact with a COVID-19 case, the Charter School will take actions as required in Section 4 below.

Follow the process set forth in Section 4 upon receipt of test results.

Response to suspected or confirmed cases and close contacts:

In the event of a suspected COVID-19 case(s):

Bridges Charter School will identify isolation rooms and/or outdoor areas to separate anyone who exhibits COVID-19 symptoms.

Any students or staff exhibiting symptoms should immediately be required to wear a face covering and wait in a separate isolation area until they can be transported home or to a healthcare facility, as soon as practicable.

For serious illness, call 9-1-1 without delay.

In the event of one or more confirmed COVID-19 case(s) Bridges Charter School will follow the CDPH Framework for Reopening K-12 Schools, including implementation of the following practices:

Notify the county public health department immediately by emailing covidschools@ventura.org and calling 805-981-5101.

Bridges Charter will follow all directives provided by Ventura County Public Health.

Notify all staff and families in the school community of any positive COVID-19 case while maintaining confidentiality as required by state and federal laws.

Close off areas used by any sick person and do not use before cleaning and disinfection. Follow cleaning and ventilation procedures.

Investigate the COVID-19 illness and exposures and determine if any work-related factors could have contributed to risk of infection.

Update protocols as needed to prevent further cases in accordance with CDPH Guidelines (“Responding to COVID-19 in the Workplace”).

Implement communication plans for exposures at worksites, and potential facility closures to include outreach to students, parents, teachers, staff and the community.

Include information for staff regarding labor laws, information regarding Disability Insurance, Paid Family Leave and Unemployment Insurance, as applicable to schools.

Provide guidance to parents, teachers and staff reminding them of the importance of community physical distancing measures while a school facility is closed, including discouraging students or staff from gathering elsewhere.

Develop a plan for continuity of education. Consider in that plan how to also continue nutrition and other services provided in the regular school setting to establish alternate mechanisms for these services to continue.

Maintain regular communications with the local public health department.

Where stable classroom cohorts have been maintained: Review if 6 feet physical distancing and proper PPE was consistently maintained during school day. Identify exposed contacts. Exposed students and staff should be instructed to get COVID-19 testing and remain quarantined at home for 14 days.

Where stable classroom cohorts have not been maintained: Utilize class seating rosters and consultation with teachers/staff to identify close contacts to the confirmed COVID-19 case in all classrooms and on-campus activities and consider cohort quarantine.

A “close contact” is someone who has been within six feet of the person who tested positive for a prolonged period of time (at least 15 minutes) regardless of face covering use, or someone who had direct physical contact or shared eating or drinking utensils

with that person, or if that person sneezed, coughed, or somehow got respiratory droplets on you.

Close contacts should be instructed to get COVID-19 testing and should remain quarantined at home for 14 days.

For all settings: Provide information regarding close contacts to the county public health department via secure fax or email.

In consultation with the local public health department, the appropriate school official may decide whether facility closure versus cleaning and quarantine of exposed persons or other intervention is warranted, including the length of time necessary, based on the risk level within the specific community as determined by the local public health officer.

Close contacts to confirmed COVID-19 case(s):

Close contacts (household or non-household) of confirmed COVID-19 cases should be sent home immediately, instructed to consult with their healthcare professional regarding COVID-19 testing as well as quarantine and/or isolation. Even if they test negative, they should remain in quarantine for a full 14 days after (1) date of last exposure to COVID-19 positive non-household contact or (2) date that COVID-19 positive household member completes their isolation.

Staff that are identified as a close contact of a confirmed COVID-19 will be referred for testing. Active symptom screening (temperature and symptom checks) will be done daily for 14 days following exposure. The employee will wear a medical mask at all times during these 14 days at the end of which they will undergo repeat COVID-19 testing

For students who remained with the same cohort of individuals, the teacher and students in the classroom with the individual who was confirmed as being positive for COVID-19 should be considered contacts if the 6 ft. social distancing cannot be confirmed. Close friends with significant contact outside of the class should also be treated similarly. The students and staff should be referred to their healthcare professional regarding COVID-19 testing as well as direction on quarantine and/or isolation

For those students that do not have a usual source of care, coordinate with the VCPH PHN to arrange for same day testing through the PHL by contacting 805-981-5101. Students awaiting initial test results, are expected to isolate at home and participate in distance learning.

They should be retested at approximately 7 days and 14 days. Temperature/symptom checks would be taken twice per day and reported to VCPH as part of contact follow-up.

VCPH will work with the school district liaisons to help coordinate testing of large groups of staff and students as needed.

No actions need to be taken for persons who have not had direct contact with a confirmed COVID-19 case, and instead have had close contact with persons who were in direct contact.

Those who test positive should not return until they have met county health department criteria to discontinue home isolation.

Returning to school after home isolation:

Symptomatic individuals who test negative for COVID-19 can return 3 days after resolution of fever (if any) and improvement in symptoms.

Documentation of a negative test result should be provided to school administrators. In lieu of a negative test result, students and staff may return to work with a medical note by a physician that provides alternative explanation for symptoms and reason for not ordering COVID-19 testing.

Symptomatic individuals who test positive for COVID-19 can return 10 days after symptom onset or test date and 24 hours with no fever without the use of fever reducing medications and other symptoms of COVID-19 are improving

Close contacts to confirmed COVID-19 cases at school can return 14 days from the last date that the case was present at school while infectious.

Close contacts to confirmed COVID-19 cases at home or outside school can return a full 14 days after (1) date of last exposure to COVID-19 positive non-household contact or (2) date that COVID-19 positive household member completes their isolation.

Sanitizing/hygiene materials and practices:

Bridges Charter School will develop routines to ensure that students and staff wash or sanitize hands frequently, including upon arrival to any in-person activity, after using the restroom, after playing outside and returning to a classroom or meeting space, before and after eating, and after coughing or sneezing.

Sanitation routines will enable students and staff to regularly wash their hands at staggered intervals.

Staff will teach and reinforce proper handwashing technique, avoiding contact with one's eyes, nose, and mouth, using a tissue to wipe the nose, and covering coughs and sneezes.

The Charter School shall make soap, tissues, no-touch trashcans, face coverings, water and paper towels or dryers for hand washing available. Students and staff should wash their hands for 20 seconds with soap, rubbing thoroughly after application. Soap products marketed as “antimicrobial” are not necessary or recommended.

If soap and water are not readily available, the Charter School shall make available fragrance-free alcohol-based hand sanitizer that is at least sixty percent (60%) ethyl alcohol. (Note: frequent handwashing is more effective than the use of hand sanitizers.) Children under age 9 should only use hand sanitizer under adult supervision.

Call Poison Control if consumed: 1-800-222-1222.

The Charter School shall place posters conspicuously that encourage hand hygiene to help stop the spread of COVID-19.

Employees should visit the CDC’s coughing and sneezing etiquette and clean hands webpage for more information.

Routine cleaning and disinfecting:

The Charter School will incorporate the CDPH and CDC Guidance for Cleaning, Disinfection and Ventilation as appropriate to maintain a high level of cleanliness throughout the year and reduce the risk of exposure to and spread of COVID-19 at facilities and meeting spaces.

Custodial staff will perform thorough cleaning when students are not present. When cleaning, the space will be aired out before children arrive.

Staff should wait twenty-four (24) hours before cleaning and disinfecting any area that was used by a person who was experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. If it is not possible to wait twenty-four (24) hours, then staff should wait as long as possible.

The Charter School will ensure proper ventilation during cleaning and disinfecting. Staff are encouraged to introduce fresh outdoor air as much as possible, by opening windows where practicable.

All frequently touched surfaces in the workplace, such as chairs, desks, tables, keyboards, telephones, handrails, light switches, sink handles, bathroom surfaces and door handles, will be routinely disinfected.

Students and employees are discouraged from sharing desks, computers, books, phones, pens, art supplies, or other work tools and equipment, including playground equipment, when possible. When shared use is allowed, the items and equipment will be cleaned and disinfected between uses.

Staff will be trained as appropriate in the chemical hazards, manufacturer's directions, and Cal/OSHA requirements for safe and correct application of cleaning and disinfectant agents in accordance with the Healthy Schools Act guidance from the California Department of Pesticide Regulation and Cal/OSHA.

When choosing disinfecting products, the Charter School will use those approved for use against COVID-19 on the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)- approved list "N" and require staff to follow product instructions.

To reduce the risk of asthma and other health effects related to disinfecting, the Charter School will select disinfectant products on list N with asthma-safer ingredients (hydrogen peroxide, citric acid or lactic acid) as recommended by the US EPA Design for Environment program.

The Charter School will avoid products that contain peroxyacetic (paracetic) acid, sodium hypochlorite (bleach) or quaternary ammonium compounds, which can cause asthma.

Staff shall follow label directions for appropriate dilution rates and contact times.

The Charter School will establish a cleaning and disinfecting schedule in order to avoid both under- and over-use of cleaning products.

Subject to available resources, disposable disinfecting wipes shall be made available so that employees can wipe down commonly used surfaces (e.g., doorknobs, keyboards, remote controls, desks, other work tools and equipment) before each use. Disinfectant wipes and sprays will be kept away from students.

Each student's belongings will be kept in an individually labeled storage container, cubby, or locker. Students are encouraged to take belongings home each day to be cleaned.

Facility measures:

The Charter School will incorporate CDE guidance for maintaining a healthy facility or meeting space, to include some or all of the following:

Maintenance staff will ensure that ventilation systems and fans operate properly and increase circulation of outdoor air as much as possible by opening windows and doors and other methods.

Windows and doors should not be opened if doing so poses a safety or health risk by exacerbating seasonal allergies or asthma symptoms.

The Charter School will consider alternatives, such as increased central air filtration (targeted filter rating of at least MERV 13) if opening windows poses a safety or health risk to persons using the facility.

Maintenance staff will ensure that all water systems and features (e.g., drinking fountains) are safe to use after a prolonged facility shutdown to minimize the risk of Legionnaires' disease and other diseases associated with water.

If possible, suspend or modify use of site resources that necessitate sharing or touching items. For example, consider suspending use of drinking fountains and installing hydration stations; encourage the use of disposable cups or reusable water bottles.

Consider installing additional temporary handwashing stations at all school entrances and near classrooms to minimize movement and congregation in bathrooms.

Consider installing privacy boards or clear screens to increase and enforce separation between staff and students.

Physical distancing (staff): The Charter School will incorporate CDPH and CDE guidance with respect to physical distancing between employees in any office setting or physical workspace, to include some or all of the following:

The Charter School will arrange desks and workspaces to create a minimum of six (6) feet between individuals.

Break rooms, staff rooms and conference rooms will have posted occupancy limits. Staff should minimize use of staff rooms, break rooms and other indoor settings. Staff are encouraged to eat meals outdoors or in large, well ventilated spaces.

Where possible, trainings and other meetings will be conducted virtually or in a manner that accommodates physical distancing.

Physical distancing (students): The Charter School will incorporate CDE guidance with respect to physical distancing between students while attending in-person activities, to include some or all of the following:

The Charter School will establish a maximum occupancy of each classroom. Desks will be arranged to minimize face-to-face contact and maintain a minimum of six (6) feet between students and teacher.

To reduce possibilities for infection, students must remain in the same space and in cohorts as small and consistent as practicable, including for recess and lunch.

Ensure students and staff remain in stable classroom cohorts by keeping the same students and teacher or staff together for the entire school day. Students should not mix with other stable classroom cohorts.

Prioritize the use and maximization of outdoor space for activities where practicable.

Minimize movement of students and teachers or staff as much as practicable. For example, consider ways to keep teachers with one group of students for the whole day.

In secondary schools or in situations where students have individualized schedules, plan for ways to reduce mixing among cohorts and to minimize contact.

Maximize space between seating and desks. Distance teacher desks at least six feet away from students. Consider ways to establish separation of students through other means if practicable, such as, six feet between desks, where practicable, partitions between desks, markings on classroom floors to promote distancing or arranging desks in a way that minimizes face-to-face contact.

Consider redesigning activities for smaller groups and rearranging furniture and play spaces to maintain separation.

The Charter School will implement measures to maintain physical distancing while students move between classrooms or meeting spaces that are easy for students to understand and are developmentally appropriate, including potentially one or more of the following recommendations.

Hallways:

Minimize congregate movement through hallways as much as practicable. For example, establish more ways to enter and exit a facility, stagger passing times when necessary or when students cannot stay in one room, and establish designated one-way walking/passage areas.

Restrooms: Stagger restroom use by groups of students to the extent practicable, and/or assign certain groups of students to use certain restrooms.

Outdoors: Consider holding recess activities in separated areas designated by class. Outdoor spaces may be used for instructional activities where physical distancing cannot be maintained in classrooms.

Activities where there is increased likelihood for transmission from contaminated exhaled droplets such as band (i.e., wind instruments) and choir practice and performances are not permitted.

The Charter School will implement procedures for turning in assignments to minimize contact.

The Charter School will implement a plan to maintain physical distancing during meals (i.e., serving meals outdoors). Food will be distributed in single-service meals instead of buffet, salad bar or family-style formats.

The Charter School will implement appropriate physical distancing measures during physical activities.

Sporting Events and Gatherings: Until allowed by relevant authorities, outdoor and indoor sporting events and competitions, assemblies, dances, rallies, field trips, and other activities that require close contact or that would promote congregating are not permitted.

Playgrounds: The Charter School will consider holding outdoor activities in separated areas designated by class and/or staggered throughout the day, and limiting use of shared playground equipment in favor of physical activities that require less contact with surfaces and allow for greater physical distancing.

Youth Sports and Physical Education: The Charter School will conduct sports and physical education classes only when the following can be maintained (1) physical distancing of at least six (6) feet, and (2) a stable cohort, such as a class, that limits the risk of transmission. Activities should take place outside to the maximum extent practicable.

For sports that cannot be conducted with sufficient distancing or cohorting, only physical conditioning and training is permitted and only where physical distancing can be maintained. Conditioning and training should focus on individual skill building (e.g., running drills and body weight resistance training) and should take place outside, where practicable. Indoor physical conditioning and training is allowed only in counties where gyms and fitness centers are allowed to operate indoors.

Avoid equipment sharing, and if unavoidable, clean and disinfect shared equipment between use by different people to reduce the risk of COVID-19 spread.

Consistent with guidance for gyms and fitness facilities, cloth face coverings must be worn during indoor physical conditioning and training or physical education classes (except when showering). Activities that require heavy exertion should be conducted outside in a physically distanced manner without face coverings. Activities conducted inside should be those that do not require heavy exertion and can be done with a face covering. Players should take a break from exercise if any difficulty in breathing is noted and should change their mask or face covering if it becomes wet and sticks to the player's face and obstructs breathing. Masks that restrict airflow under heavy exertion (such as N-95 masks) are not advised for exercise.

Use of face coverings: The Charter School will follow CDPH, CDE and CDC guidance and state and local health orders on the use of face coverings for in-person activities. All staff are encouraged to review the CDPH and CDC guidance on cloth face coverings; face coverings must be used in accordance with CDPH Guidelines and this Policy unless a person is exempt as explained in this Policy, particularly in indoor

environments and areas where physical distancing alone is not sufficient to prevent disease transmission.

Until such time as the statewide order is lifted, all adults must wear a cloth face covering at all times while meeting in-person, except while eating or drinking.

Staff excluded from this requirement are those that require respiratory protection according to Cal/OSHA standards.

Employees should wear a clean face mask to any in-person activity.

Employees should avoid touching the mask and should wash their hands frequently, including after removing the mask.

Employees are expected to teach and reinforce proper use of face coverings, and in limited circumstances, face shields.

Teachers may use clear plastic face shields with an appropriate seal (cloth covering extending from the bottom edge of the shield and tucked into the shirt collar) in certain limited situations in the classroom to enable students to see their faces and avoid potential barriers to phonological instruction as long as the wearer maintains physical distance from others, to the extent practicable. Staff must return to wearing a face covering when not wearing a face shield.

The Charter School will post signs regarding the proper use, removal, and washing of face coverings.

The Charter School will post signs to remind employees that CDC recommends maintaining social distancing of at least six (6) feet, and that the State of California currently requires face masks to be worn in public settings with certain limited exceptions.

Students must wear face coverings except those who are prevented from wearing one by a breathing problem or disability. These students must be granted a medical exemption using the following criteria, and in such cases, a face shield is an acceptable alternative:

Developmental delays

Children with limited motor control preventing them from removing his/her mask.

Children with difficulty managing oral secretions which may saturate the mask.

Children with mental health conditions that may prevent tolerance to a mask.

Limited physical mobility

Severe Autism

Structural abnormalities of the head or neck, however, some of these children may be able to wear bandana-style coverings.

All children in grades K-8 shall wear a clean cloth face covering:

While waiting to enter the facility.

In any area outside of the classroom or meeting space (except when eating or drinking).

While leaving the facility.

Proper use of cloth face coverings by students will be strictly enforced.

The Charter School may exclude from campus any student who refuses to wear a face mask. Students excluded from face covering requirements include anyone who has trouble breathing or is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the covering without assistance.

The Charter School shall educate students, particularly younger elementary school students, on the rationale and proper use of face coverings.

A cloth face covering or face shield may be removed for meals, snacks, naptime, or outdoor recreation, or when it needs to be replaced. When a cloth face covering is temporarily removed, it should be placed in a clean paper bag (marked with the student's name and date) until it needs to be put on again.

The Charter School will provide face coverings for students and staff who lose their face coverings or forget to bring them to an in-person activity.

Use of gloves and PPE: The Charter School requires employees to wear gloves and other Personal Protective Equipment ("PPE") in accordance with the following standards.

The Charter School will provide surgical masks, face shields, and disposable gloves for employees engaging in Wellness and Temperature Screenings. Workers or other persons handling or serving food must use gloves in addition to cloth face coverings.

The Charter School will provide a clear plastic barrier or face covering and disposable gloves for front office and food service employees.

The Charter School will provide equipment and PPE to custodial staff for cleaning and disinfecting, including:

For regular surface cleaning, gloves appropriate for all cleaning and disinfecting.
For classified staff engaged in deep cleaning and disinfecting, proper PPE for COVID-19 disinfection (disposable gown, gloves, eye protection, and mask or respirator) in addition to PPE as required by product instructions.

All cleaning and disinfecting products must be kept out of children's reach and stored in a space with restricted access.

As required by Cal/OSHA, the Charter School will provide training on the proper use of PPE to protect employees from the hazards of the cleaning products used. Employees must wash hands after removing gloves.

Support for Students at Increased Risk of Becoming Infected or Unrecognized Illness:

The Director or designee will review student health plans, including 504 Plans, to identify students who may need additional accommodations to minimize potential exposure.

The Director or designee will develop a process for engaging families for potentially unknown concerns that may need to be accommodated.

The Charter School will identify additional preparations for classroom and non-classroom environments as needed to ensure the safety of students at increased risk of becoming infected or having unrecognized illness. Persons who might be at increased risk of becoming infected or having unrecognized illness include the following:

Individuals who have limited mobility or require prolonged and close contact with others, such as direct support providers and family members;

Individuals who have trouble understanding information or practicing preventive measures, such as hand washing and physical distancing; and

Individuals who may not be able to communicate symptoms of illness.

Maintaining Healthy Operations: The Charter School will follow CDPH Guidance for maintaining healthy operations, including the following practices.

Monitor staff absenteeism and have a roster of trained back-up staff where available.

Monitor the types of illnesses and symptoms among your students and staff to help isolate them promptly as needed.

Designate a staff liaison or liaisons to be responsible for responding to COVID-19 concerns. Workers should know who they are and how to contact them. The liaison should be trained to coordinate the documentation and tracking of possible exposure, in order to notify local health officials, staff and families in a prompt and responsible manner.

Maintain communication systems that allow staff and families to self-report symptoms and receive prompt notifications of exposures and closures, while maintaining confidentiality, as required by FERPA and state law related to privacy of educational records.

Consult with local health departments if routine testing is being considered by a local educational agency. The role of providing routine systematic testing of staff or students for COVID-19 (e.g., PCR swab testing for acute infection, or presence of antibodies in serum after infection) is currently unclear.

Protection of higher risk employees:

The Charter School recognizes that older adults and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions are at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19.

Consistent with operational needs, the Charter School shall support options to telework, if available and reasonable.

The Charter School shall attempt to modify vulnerable employees' duties to minimize their contact with visitors and other employees.

Communications to the Charter School community:

The Charter School will engage with families and staff to develop strategies to prepare and respond to the COVID-19 emergency, including guidelines for families about when to keep students at home and other topics.

Prior to the start of the school year, the Charter School will communicate to staff, students, and parents about new, COVID-19-related protocols, including:

Enhanced sanitation practices

Physical distancing requirements and recommendations

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.

Guidelines for employees regarding COVID-19 specific symptom identification and when to seek medical attention

Guidelines for families about when to keep students home from in-person activities.

Systems for self-reporting symptoms.

Criteria and plan to close facilities again for physical attendance of students.

The Charter School will train staff and students on protocols for physical distancing for both indoor and outdoor spaces.

The Charter School will provide information to parents and guardians regarding this Policy and related guidance, along with the safety measures that will be in place in indoor and outdoor settings with which parents and guardians must comply.

Communications will be targeted to the most vulnerable members of the Charter School community.

The Charter School will develop a communications plan for implementation if the school has a positive COVID-19 case in accordance with CDPH and CDE guidelines.

The Director is authorized to implement changes or additions to this policy in order to ensure compliance or consistency with new or revised orders or guidance from local, county, state or federal authorities (“Agencies”), to take any and all actions consistent with orders and guidance from the Agencies that is not specifically addressed by this policy, and to ensure compliance with the Charter School’s charter petition.

The Director shall provide the Board with regular updates as to actions taken pursuant to this section.