

SAN CARLOS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 20
COVID-19 EDUCATION PLAN
UPDATED February 2022





San Carlos Unified School District

Current Reality

San Carlos Unified School District has been committed to the safety and well being of our students and staff. Following a two-week shutdown at the beginning of the year and hybrid instruction thereafter, we have been committed to the safe full return of students and staff. To accomplish this goal, we have supported and organized vaccination clinics, collaborated with community agencies, and partnered with the CDC and local health officials to monitor and facilitate a safe return to full time in-class instruction.

Students-

Students Pre-K thru 12 have been on a hybrid schedule for learning the majority of the year. This was accomplished by having a cohort of students attending in person Monday/Tuesday and another cohort attending in person Wednesday/Thurs with an existing online learning infrastructure accompanied by laptop computers and hotspots for every student on Friday. The low rate of COVID-19 cases in our community warranted SCUSD to consider a return to full time in-class instruction. To allow for a safe transition, high school students made a full return Monday February 28th followed by Rice Primary, Intermediate, and Middle School on Monday, March 7th.

Staff-

The majority of our staff both classified and certified have been vaccinated. Thirteen of our staff members have not been vaccinated. They have all agreed to be tested 1x week. Some staff who have been vaccinated are currently being trained to administer the BinaxNOW tests to students on an as needed basis.



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San Carlos Unified School District No. 20

Dr. Deborah Jackson-Dennison, Superintendent

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"Our Vision Is To Be An Effective Student Focused Learning Community Graduating Culturally Confident Citizens"

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

San Carlos Unified School District Plans To Re-Open Schools to Full Time Classroom Instruction

San Carlos Unified School District plans on a long-awaited reopening of schools for in person daily instruction starting on Monday February 28th, 2022. The reopening will be staggered as follows:

San Carlos High School	Monday, February 28, 2022
San Carlos Middle School	Monday, March 7, 2022
Rice Primary and Intermediate School	Monday, March 7, 2022

Although online learning and hybrid instruction has allowed our students and staff to remain safe, we know that our students learn best and deserve daily in-person learning.

Our goal remains to have all eligible students fully vaccinated. Even though our efforts and commitment to meet this goal have fallen short, we will continue to partner with local health agencies to provide accessibility for students and their families to obtain vaccinations.

Your child was sent home with a COVID-19 opt-out consent form prior to Christmas break. This opt out form provided parents/guardians an opportunity to say "no" to permitting school employees authorization to conduct the COVID-19 antigen test at school to your child. If the opt out consent form was not returned, your child will be tested on the first day upon return and possibly periodically as a precaution and measure for the safety of all students and staff.

To learn more about the school testing protocol and the impact it will have on your child, please visit our school website at <http://www.scbraves.net> and/or reach out to school district nurse, Christina Verdugo at 928-475 2378 with any questions you may have regarding the COVID-19 antigen test and/or the testing protocol.

Dr. Deborah J. Dennison



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Essential Elements of Safe K-12 School In-person Instruction

1. Mitigation strategies to reduce transmission of SARS-CoV-2 in schools

Regardless of the level of community transmission, all schools should use and layer [mitigation strategies](#). Five key mitigation strategies are essential to safe delivery of in-person instruction and help to mitigate COVID-19 transmission in schools:

- Universal and correct use of [masks](#)
- [Physical distancing](#)
- Handwashing and respiratory etiquette
- Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities
- Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the health department
- [Cohorting](#) or podding is recommended to minimize exposure across the school environment.

COVID-19 Screening Protocol

Purpose Maintain full time in-school instruction by reducing transmission of the SARS-CoV-2 virus by implementing a COVID-19 screening program

Rationale

- Recent outbreaks have occurred despite the use of layered COVID-19 prevention strategies
- More than half of infections come from asymptomatic individuals
- COVID-19 testing can identify infectious students regardless of symptoms
- Use of antigen tests to screen staff and students will allow for rapid isolation of positive cases and modified quarantine practices that can allow more students to safely remain in school

Screening Program Approach

SCUSD will implement a comprehensive, regular, and ongoing COVID-19 screening program that includes a Test-to-Stay component (sometimes referred to as modified quarantine) using rapid antigen tests and responsive contact tracing that will allow close contacts consenting to testing to remain in the classroom, while maintaining other layered prevention strategies, such as universal masking, to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Testing Strategy



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All consenting students and staff will be tested for COVID-19 on a regular basis, with frequency determined by risk level (individual and community). Baseline testing of all upon return to school. Once we have that baseline data we will implement the test to stay protocol as we developed with the guidance of CDC.

Vaccinated close contacts of a positive student/staff will be tested upon discovery of contact and on day 5-7 following exposure and may remain in school during the quarantine period if asymptomatic.

Unvaccinated close contacts of a positive student/staff will be tested upon discovery of contact and on day 5-7 following exposure and may remain in school during the quarantine period if asymptomatic.

Because of asymptomatic spread of COVID-19, the effectiveness of screening programs depends on the proportion of the school community being tested, the frequency with which tests are conducted, the response time of test results, and contact tracing. The testing parameters (cadence and population) may be changed to reflect appropriate school and community indicators of COVID-19 transmission, occurrence of special events and holidays, or where other prevention strategies are

compromised (e.g. physical distancing during close contact sports). Additionally, individuals who are fully vaccinated may require less frequent testing. Established Screening Levels should be defined by specific parameters, and the implementation of or changes to the Screening Level should be jointly determined by SCUSD and the Tribal Department of Health and Human Services (DHSS).

Test Type

Antigen testing for SARS-CoV-2 will be used because of the benefits to screening goals:

- Detects current viral infection
- Moderate-to-high sensitivity
- Uses a lower nostril nasal swab
- Can be self-administered by >14 years of age
- Results can be obtained in approximately 15 minutes

SCUSD will use the BinaxNOW (or equivalent) test approved for point-of-care use.

Sample Collection

SCAHC Nurses and Parent Educators will be trained to administer the BinaxNOW Test. Staff will also be trained to administer the BinaxNOW test. Students who self-administer swabs will be directly observed by teachers, nurses, or parent educators. All test results will be observed and recorded by designated staff.



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Positive Results

Immediate action in response to a positive test result is critical to the success of the Screening Program:

- An individual with a positive test will be removed from the classroom immediately to a designated area for isolation until they can go home.
- All individuals with a positive test should be referred for confirmatory PCR testing at SCAHC.
- All positive antigen results will be reported to Tribal DHHS within 15 minutes of a completed test.
- Contact tracing should be conducted as soon as possible
- Monitoring of positive results will inform Screening Levels.

Quarantine Procedures

- If a student tests positive for COVID-19 at any time, they must isolate at home and follow DHHS isolation guidance.
- **Students who opt out of testing are not eligible for test to stay, as described above.** and must follow DHHS isolation guidance.

Fully vaccinated students who meet the definition of close contact and remain asymptomatic are not required to quarantine. However, they should get tested upon discovery and 5-7 days after their exposure date.

- Fully vaccinated students who meet the definition of close contact and develop symptoms should self-isolate and be tested for COVID-19.
- School districts must receive permission from parents/guardians for students to receive school-based testing using opt out consent.

Screening Protocol

- Testing applies only to those who did not opt out.
- Changes and revisions to the testing protocol will be determined by SCUSD and Tribal DHHS and informed by school and community transmission, special events, vaccination rates, and other appropriate criteria



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This level reflects the highest risk for COVID-19 transmission and will be implemented to shift from a hybrid model to full time in-person instruction.

Group	Testing cadence
Symptomatic individuals	Immediately
All students and staff	Upon the 1 st day of full time return.
Vaccinated close contacts	Upon close contact discovery and day 5 following exposure
Unvaccinated close contacts	Upon close contact discovery and day 5 following exposure
Students and staff participating in events at which universal masking and social distancing is not fully practiced	Test in 2-3 days after the event.



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San Carlos Unified School District BinaxNOW Antigen Test for Symptomatic/ Non-Symptomatic Individuals

Parent/Guardian Authorization for Student

By completing and submitting this form, I **DO NOT** provide consent, nor authorize the administration of a COVID-19 antigen test on my student during school hours for the following purposes:

- Should school staff observe symptoms and/or students self-report consistent with COVID-19 or isolated symptoms (e.g., isolated runny nose, isolated headache, or isolated abdominal pain without fever).
- Random testing to be proactive in the spread of COVID-19 with contact to parent following testing.

I understand that authorizing a COVID-19 test for my student is optional and that I can reconsider authorization, in which case, my student will be tested. I further understand that my student **must** stay home if feeling unwell.

Staff/Student At Age of Majority/ Demographic Information:

First Name: _____

Student's Last Name: _____

Student's Middle Name: _____

Student's address (street, city, zip code): _____

My child has had the COVID -19 Vaccination? Yes _____ No _____

Authorized Signatory:

I am not permitting my child to be tested. I understand that I can change my mind at any time regarding consent for my child to be tested for COVID-19 testing.

Parent Signature

Date



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SAN CARLOS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT TEST TO STAY PROTOCOL

BASELINE TESTING

- All consenting students and staff will be tested for COVID-19 on the first day of full return.

SYMPTOMATIC TESTING

- Positive student/staff will be tested upon symptoms.
- An individual with a positive test will be removed from the classroom immediately to a designated area for isolation and go home and follow DHHS guidance for quarantine.

DIRECT CONTACTS

- Vaccinated/Unvaccinated students/staff will be tested upon close contact discovery and day 5 following exposure.
- Direct contacts may remain in school during the quarantine period if asymptomatic.



SCUSD UNIVERSAL EVENTS

- Students and staff participating in events at which universal masking and social distancing is not fully practiced within 24 hours following the event.

What Do I Need to Know About COVID-19 BinaxNOW Testing?



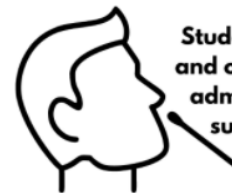
A lower nostril test that requires a shallow nasal swab of 1/2 to 3/4 inches.



Administered and/or supervised by a train nurse or school employee.



Using medium pressure, the swab will rub against each nostril in 3 big circular motions.



Students 14 years and older can self-administer with supervision.



Results in 15 minutes